What They "Showed Me"

in

Southeast Missouri
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Preface

A Little Book dedicated to those who, like myself, are trying to better their condition—trying to make a starting point for those of their family that come after them, so that their journey through life might be made just a little easier, so that some of the rough places might be smoothed over and there would be a little more pleasure for them, while for those that go before it is all pioneer life with its attendant hardships. It is to save YOU from the pitfalls that are ever spread before the newcomer, that I am writing this booklet, and is a truthful account of my near four years' experience trying to make some money in the SWAMP country of southeast Missouri, the home of the New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-12. Read it through carefully—heed what I tell you—and I assure you it will be worth $$$$$ to you, while its cost, if anything, is a mere trifle; yet it cost me a-plenty—near four years of the best part of my life and of my children's school life.

Compelled to be a philanthropist for near four years, helping to redeem some of this swamp land, I am now willing to continue to be a philanthropist if by so doing I can save some other person from a like fate. Read carefully—read thoroughly.

Near Four Years in the Swamps of Missouri,
Which Were Made by the New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-12.

American people have the "Hurry" idea; they hurry to do this and hurry to do that, and oftentimes they hurry into something that a little of the "Stop—Look and Listen" principle rightfully applied would have saved them years of worry and money loss. I am taking this lesson home to myself and giving it to you, that if you want to and will you can save yourself a like experience.

In the spring of 1909, having heard of the wonders of southeast Missouri, through our local real estate agents, Messrs. Hale & Markley, of Bluffton, Indiana, I came here on a prospecting trip and spent one day, April 19th, riding out into the country with Mr. J. F. Cox, of the then C. M. Smith Bros. & Co. real estate agency of Sikeston, Mo. It rained and hailed that day, but I saw the country, went back home, told the family what I had seen, read over their profusely illustrated folder of the country and its immense possibilities, and we decided to try it. Right here I should have stopped and studied the country at greater length. A personal friend of mine tried to head me off. Cautioned me against collusion among real estate agents to try and skin the unwary; but hadn't I been down here and met the people and knew more about it than he did?

Although I was a high school graduate, I did not know of the New Madrid Earthquake and its great extent and I did not stop to investigate. Here let me call your attention to the fact that our Government does all in its power to keep its people informed, and were you thinking of trying a new country, if you would take up the location with the Geological Department of the Government I am most sure you would get information to your advantage. It took me quite a while to learn this, and it came about in this way: After being in this country a while naturally I met up with and talked conditions with the people, some of whom had lived most all of their lives here, and the subject of the formation of the land being up, I asked as to how all these piles of sand occurred and they told me they were sand blows. Then there being some deeper depressions on the farm, I was informed that they were sink holes. Well, these matters rather aroused my interest and a further interest was awakened by the fact that on the 23rd of October, 1909, there was a real earthquake shock, which was felt generally all over the country that was affected by the earthquake of 1811-12. I give you here what the Post-Dispatch of St. Louis said about this shock, as they gathered their news generally all over the district affected, and what I might say as to personal experience would only be local.
"EARTHQUAKE DISTURBS SLUMBER"

"About 1 o'clock Saturday Morning—Felt All Along Mississippi."

"Half the population in Alton was aroused soon after 1 a.m. Saturday, October 23, 1899, by an earthquake that has been more severe than that which startled St. Louis and its vicinity several weeks ago. The earthquake was felt there, and as far south as Paragould, Ark., and was particularly severe at Cape Girardeau, Mo., where it was the heaviest shock felt for many years. Heavy damage was done to all of their houses quietly and the ground heaved. W. T. Norton, former postmaster of Alton, said he felt three shocks, the first of which awakened him. The shocks, which were separated by several seconds apart, Mr. Norton said, and all of a brief duration. They seemed to pass from west to east, but Norton described them as being mostly up and down."

"An alarm clock which Emil Mook, an Alton printer, had on a table beside his bed was shaken to the floor by the disturbance. The shocks, which occurred other than Cape Girardeau where the shock was felt distinctly at Sikeston and Charleston. The report from Sikeston says all the inhabitants were shaken by the severity of the tremor, while in Charleston many persons were awakened. Charleston reports that the earthquake was felt.

"Cairo, III., felt the shock at 1:08 a.m. for about 15 seconds. Many persons were awakened by the shaking of their houses and the rumbling sound.

"Cairo, Memphis, Cape Girardeau, Charleston, Sikeston, and Paragould are in the area chiefly affected by the great New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-12 which caused a large territory in southeast Missouri and northeast Arkansas and across the Mississippi to become Swamp Lands."

"Again I clipped from other paper, The Sikeston Standard Publishing Item."

KENNEDY HAD A CHILL.

Several in this city felt a distinct earthquake shock Monday at 11 o'clock that lasted a quarter of a minute. It was especially noticeable in the brick buildings. One lady said that the piano fell from the top shelf. Very few of Kennett's people stay awake late at night. —Kennett Democrat.

"Since writing this near four years' experience of mine in 'Swampland,' Missouri, the home of the New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-12, and before the publication of it there has been another quite severe earthquake shock and I have all the newspaper account of it as published by the Southeast Missourian, a paper at Portageville, Mo."

DID YOU FEEL IT?

At just 5:15 o'clock Wednesday morning one of the hardest earthquakes in a number of years was felt in Springfield and other parts of the Sangamon county.

These happenings so stirred my desire for more information that I began to correspond with leading colleges as to where I could get full information as to the New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-12 and as referred to the Journal of Geology, published by the University at Chicago Press, and in their January-February number, 1905, I found a very complete article by Professor Stephen Forbush, published in the American Geologist, published at Minnesota, Minn., I found an article by G. C. Broad, then at last I wrote the United States Geological Survey in Washington, D.C., for an answer to Interior, and they mailed me BULLETIN No. 491: THE NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKE, by Myron L. Fuller. This is a book of some 120 pages and quite complete on the subject of an earthquake for anyone thinking of making a home in this "Earthquake Zone" or of acquiring property therein.

I owe it to yourself and your family to know the country, as far as it is given us power to know, the dangers that exist in that country from forest fires, tornadoes, floods, volcanoes and earthquakes. This is not the place to go into this subject, but I am willing to stop—Look and Listen. Before the earthquake, you would do well to "Stop—Look and Listen" before getting tied up there. I do not wish to burden this booklet with much statistical reports of earthquakes of 1811-12 in the New Madrid. A "sink-hole," filled in "fissures" and other markings of the greatest earthquake upheaval and depression known to civilized man. Page 7 gives a location of the earthquake, which is quite important, in that it locates for you where the earthquake did the most damage. Page 9 carries a map of the New Madrid area showing the "sink-hole," the most valuable one for a person to have that is contemplating settling in this country or of purchasing property here. Pages 10 and 11 give a statistical report of the very substantial evidence that this earthquake did occur. Pages 12-26 give an interesting reading. I often thought that I would be most willing to be present at a repetition of the disaster, were it possible to do so, until I read: "If the earth were to settle in about the middle of December, 1899, and stick shivering in the cold, the rest of the night with the fear of being swallowed up by the earth at any moment."

Page 12 gives Indian tradition of previous disturbances of this country by earthquakes and also corroboration evidence that they did occur. Page 13 is quite interesting to one who has looked into the matter of the earth's future. Page 14 and 15 give the location of the center of the disturbance and locates it about 16 miles to the west of the Mississippi River. Page 16 is very interesting. It is an instantaneous chart giving the area of the disturbance, which of the most marked disturbance, such as domes, sunk lands, fissures, sinks, sand levees, comprised from 30,000 to 50,000 square miles and extended from a point west of Cairo on the north to the latitude of Memphis on the south and a distance east of the Mississippi as far as Crowley's ridge on the west to Chickasaw Bluffs on the east, a distance of over 50 miles, then the area of slight earth disturbances and also the Great Destructiveness of the Shock's" and reads something like a modern day write-up of a powder mill explosion without the powder. Page 17 will say what the earthquake did to the roads of the country. Pages 31 and 32 give accounts of the nature of the vibrations and make an account of the fear of being ing. On page 34 is given the number of re-
corded shocks as 1,574. Page 45 gives account of another great earthquake caused by the earthquake. Pages 47 to 52 take up the interesting caused by the earthquake, and the fact that people are said to have felled large trees, rolled over them, and were rolled under them and would burst, is serious enough to make a person want to save a few tall cypress or gum trees on the coast for no other end. And 55 give interesting data as to certain peculiar incidents caused by the fissuring, one of which is amusing to read, but is not recorded at first experience. It is related by Lesieur: It seems that a Mr. Cublerson lived on a V-shaped point in a bend of Pemiscoat River, embracing about an acre of land. His house was situated, lying between the house and the river. On the morning of the earthquake Mrs. Cublerson started out to smoke and rolled by the path crossed by the wide stream, the smokehouse and well being seen across the river, on the opposite side from where they were the night before. Page 62 speaks of writers of the great quake call attention to the turning back of the Mississippi River and of the closing of an entrance to the 55 feet wide Mississippi River some three miles below New Madrid. Pages 64 to 75 deal with the "Sunken Lands" of this earthquake and it is sure interesting to anyone who has lived near four years in this country and had an opportunity to study it at close hand. And there is the story of sand blows taken in California, which sand blows were formed in the recent San Francisco earthquake, and they surely look like those in the eastern states. They are very sandy appearance. Pages 78 to 85 speak on sand sloughs, pronounced "sloos.", "Sink." are very fully described on page 67 and 38 are causing the streams, the "sink holes" in dry times wondering how they looked and how it was around here when they were formed. Page 79 to 80 gives different accounts of the earthquake on the waters of the Mississippi River and furnish very interesting reading to one living not quite in this "Earthquake country." It seems the earthquake had on the forests, and from the descriptions and the damage you wonder that there is as much timber in this country as there is. Page 89 gives the effect of the "quake" on artificial structures, and from the long continuance of this particular earthquake, it is evident that the frame buildings left standing. Page 101 treats of the noises accompanying the earthquake, and that there is I can testify to the truth of it, for the quake of Oct. 23rd, 1905, was accompanied by a noise like an explosion to the west of our home. Pages 102 to 104 take up Popular Beliefs of the Origin and Cause and Evidence of Origin of this Earthquake, and are very interesting. The "Ultimate Cause" of this earthquake as written up on page 105 is well written for anyone, either living in this area or interested in the earthquake. Page 109 gives Contemporaneous Disturbances and it seems that there was a plenty doing in the 111, 112 and 113 different accounts are very interesting reading in that it speaks of the probabilities of a recurrence of this earthquake and when, judging it by other earthquakes, it is likely to be periods of several hundred years, and they show that they are to be expected about every 100 years. This page also gives names of localities that will be the most affected were it to occur again.

This constitutes the whole of the book that is written. It is a book on a subject of a great earthquake and is very fine reading and very instructive to anyone, and especially to parties thinking of locating in this locality for a home or a farm. It seems that while I was hunting for news relating to this greatest of earthquakes, that everything most pertained to it. I am under my observation, and being the century anniversary of it, and the only paper that had published an account of it 10 years ago, the St. Louis Republican, or site it was written for the catastrophe, and I here copy their account of it:

"CENTENNIAL OF MISSOURI'S EARTH-QUAKE."

(St. Louis Republican, of Nov. 12th, 1911.)

"One hundred years ago this month the trappers, squatters, traders and settlers down the valley from St. Louis were listening now and again to certain strange and peculiar noises that seemed to come from the earth beneath. There were some timorous souls among them who claimed to have felt the earth tremble beneath their feet; but it is a safe surmise that the others laughed and mocked and continued to doubt.

"It was late in December that the most interesting earthquake that ever rocked North America struck the New Madrid country. There were more lives lost in San Francisco, that time the earth there shook loose from its moorings, but the Pacific quake did not unplug a single face of the country like this valley tremor that lasted for days and weeks.

"It was then that the Mississippi River ran uphill for hours. The great mass of water hurrying toward the Gulf paused and turned back upon itself. All the valley was a-quiver. Great geysers opened in the good black earth of the valley. Some of these sink-holes fumed and mumbled throughout the days of December, 1811, that the valley found itself being shaken as a terrier shakes a rat. The premonitory rumblings and grumblings among the rocks and sand had frightened the valley dwellers. They had grown used to them.

"St. Louis went to bed on Sunday night, December 16th, 1811. The next day the tremors and grumblings had not been bothering the valley this far north. Very early in the morning of the 16th the earth began to wobble like a drunken man. On Saturday, December 21, 1811, all the earthquake party had settled down to a long day's sleep. They had risen late, and the shuddering earth made it hard to get back to sleep. The rocking, roiling and trembling was kept up at short intervals.

"Missouri was all a-quiver. Thousands of acres of land to the west of the river sank and the waters of the Mississippi River invaded the newly made lowlands. The laborers were working for the damage caused during the last days of December, 1811, and the early months of 1812. Big Government dredges are now pulling those canals and drains which we are now opening and opening them up to the belated plow. Had it not been for this tremendous earthquake the swamp lands of Missouri would have been small in area.

"That earthquake has cost Missouri millions in deferred population, lost production and the actual cost of draining the quake-sunken lands. The name of this first great earthquake, afterwards known as the New Madrid earthquake, was published in The Missouri Gazette, now The St. Louis Republican. This was published on September 21, 1811, and the extent of the disaster was by no means known at the time. In fact, the greater part of the rocking took place some time later."

"On January 4th, says the editor, "about a quarter past 2, St. Louis was visited by one of the most violent shocks of earthquake that have been known in the history of the country. As we were all wrapt in sleep, each tells his story in his own way. I will also relate my simple tale."

"At 2.15 A.M. I was aroused from sleep by the clamor of windows, doors and furniture in tremendous motion, with a distant rumbling noise resembling a number of ocean waves. In the next few seconds the motion and subterraneous thunder increased more and more. Believing the noise to proceed from the north or northwest, and expecting the earth to be relieved by a vol-
canic eruption, I ran out of doors and looked for the dreadful phenomena. 

The excitement had now reached its utmost violence. I entered the house to march my family from its expected ruins, but before I could put my designs into execution the shock had ceased, and lasted about one and three-quarter minutes.

"The sky was obscured by a thick, hazy fog, without a breath of air; a Fehrenheit thermometer stood at - 35 and the barometer at 35 or 40 degrees. At forty-seven minutes past 2 another shock was felt, without the rumbling noise and much less violent than the first, which lasted over two minutes.

"The account continues with a description of still other shocks that kept the harassed St. Louisians in a state of continual excitement. In the account of the earthquake it is suggested that it must have been of volcanic origin, as there was said to be a volcano, existing in the valley of the Osage Indians joined the Missouri.

"Geologists would not be at all surprised if there was a recurrence of these earthquake shocks in the south of St. Louis and near New Madrid known as a 'weak-spot.' It is one of three that are known to exist in the earth's crust on American territory, with San Francisco and one of the Pacific Coast in the neighborhood of New Jersey having the other. Seismologists censure it severely later in life for a shifting and settling of the earth in these localities.

"Never a year passes that there is not one or more eruptions in Missouri and over in Kentucky and southern Illinois. These no more than rattle the dishes in the cupboards or set the chandeliers to swinging, but they are indications that all is not yet serene in the subterranean depths in the lower valley.

Seismologists never tire of studying the great shocks of New Madrid. Its effects are almost as plain today as they were 100 years ago. The sink-holes and lakes, the submerged forest preserves, still prove the existence of a great eruption, and plenty of material for the student. The only reason for the slight loss of life was that there were but few inhabitants in that section at the time of the earthquake.

The earthquake was the cause, one cause at least, of the little corner of Missouri sticking down into what might have been Arkansas. After the first great shocks the people fled from the quivering neighborhood, with one exception. There was one strong-minded citizen who refused to go, and maintained that he was a native of Missouri, and was in fact, the citizen of Missouri. This was at the time when the boundary line was being fixed. He had his way, as it happened, until the day of the earthquake, realizing that he was not a man with whom it was possible to compromise.'

Again in the St. Louis Post-Di:patch of Sunday, April 17th, an article under the above title foreshadowed the San Francisco quake and warned Alaska Eight years ago of the now ACTIVE KATMAI VOLCANO, says the GREAT NEW Volcano, at the time of the quake; but on the first page of the morning, Professor McGee having made a report for the Government on the Charleston, S. C., earthquake of 1886.

Reading all these accounts—descriptions of the great quake of 1811-12, predictions of the recurrence of it by such prominent men as Shaler and McGee, records of other great quakes which show activities about every century and a half, I am led to believe that something has occurred since we have been in the country, which made me feel as though you were living on the edge of a gravel bank where they were covering the soil with tar, and a great hand was picking away to throw the cave—small particles always fall off at first, which would correspond to the tremors and flashes, and other small shocks, while—but when he has enough dug out, you know, down goes the cave. In 1888, I am told by several people, they had a very severe shock. Monroe Dinkins and Samuel Marl, of Matthews, Mo., gave me an account of their experience with it. How it started the pumps to flowing and the doors and windows were violent. It was a very dry time Mr. Marl told me of how he was standing on one of these sand blows in the east swamp, along a cypress slough, and when the large cypress trees began to thrash around he just did not know what to expect. Mr. Dinkins told me of how they tried driving a team of mules about nine miles and how it took them all day to do it, for every time the earth would tremble the mules would stop. Now these are reliable people and I would suggest that you do the same. Mr. White, on a prospecting tour that you take time to visit with some of these older citizens that are not interested in selling or showing lands.

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their farm about six miles southwest from Silkeston on Pharris Ridge—places are located in this country by ridges and ditches; there is Silkeston Ridge, Big Ridge, Landers Ridge, Cottontail Ridge, Ten Mile Ridge, Big Bluff, etc., etc.; and ditches either go by their numbers either east or west of the Silkeston Ridge or the particular slough that they were dug to drain. 1 have learned to like these quaint old country customs. On a pleasant Sunday with the boys talking over the farming possibilities of the country, etc.; then the men engaged in farming. Matthews and through some very wild and new country—up the Frisco railroad to Silkeston—and wrote home of the fact that I had not as yet found a place to lay my hat. I thought it would be profitable to work at in connection with prospective showing of lands as outlined with Mr. Markley; and as one of the Wranglers of the Firemen, Mrs. Weishans would sell her hotel at Lilbourn, I decided to go back there and visit a few days more. So on the 15th of June, 1909, I went back to Lilbourn and wrote M. J. Studabaker what it would cost us to buy this hotel did we decide to do so, I was much pleased when I received a letter from Mrs. M. H. D. Cook, secured for us what money we needed. I insisted that Mrs. Studabaker pay the country a visit and see the country—look over our prospects. On the 15th of June, 1909, she came to Lilbourn and we stayed here till afternoon of June 24th, when we left for the distance across the country in that locality, as Mr. Cook had expressed himself as though he would feel we were making a safer investment if we were to buy the farm. The money we had—$2,500—was small to think of buying and operating a farm, yet he assured Mrs. Studabaker that he would see us through if we would buy the farm. Silkeston I arranged with the C. M. Smith Bros. & Co. Land Company to take us out and show us some of their land they had for sale; so on the morning of June 25th M. J. Studabaker, what it was I wouldn't have done if it was me, I went to C. M. Smith Bros. & Co. Land Company, but now of the Hoosier Land and Investment Company. We drove out to Pharris Ridge, then south along Assumption Road, then north half miles south of Matthews, then we came up out of the wilderness onto Cottontail Ridge, and here he showed us the farm of 215 acres that we at first thought we would find the joy to come up out of the uncleared land to this almost cleared farm, with a new 6-room PANTRY, a house, and the idea of growing corn that we sure thought we had found the spot, and when we learned that we could buy this with a payment of $2,000 down and ten annual payments on the balance, and that if we would purchase it before July 1st—that was June 25th—that we would get this year's rent (Mr. Cox said there was 290 acres of it in corn and rented at 41 per acre, we were interested at once and did not look any further, Mr. Cox wanted to show us some lands in the EAST swamp not so far out from Silkeston, but we had already seen that and the idea every time the Mississippi river came up and we would not go and look at them; so we decided to stay in this country and see further. To the hotel, and the next day Mrs. Studabaker started back for Indiana to send me the money to close the deal, and I went to out and visit there. I found the farm of Mr. Ben Moser and I drove over to the farm and took another look at it. We found that at least half of the farm was the much sought for black land, and the rest was as good white sand and between 10 and 20 acres of white oak ridge clay. About 160 acres of it was in corn, and was very good. Farmers said, because they just could not get to it to do it. I took it that they meant they had too much work, but I afterwards learned that it was on account of it being too wet. Well, I still had the idea of buying the farm, for here was a farm within a mile of an elevator—and right up against the railroad at Big Bluff. Half black land and half ridge—new house—rented, so I was informed, for $4 per acre cash—could buy it on ten years' time with five payments each year, with 6 per cent interest, making an annual payment of about $1,300 and interest. Looked like a person ought to make it, but as we go along will show you how far it is a moneymaker. But, important it is to look after all the little things, will right here make mention of the fact that one near the southeast corner of this land there was a cemetery—I say on or near at this time, for land was to be surveyed and I was to pay for just what it measured, and I made mention to him too; I am not sure if I want to pay for this cemetery if it fell within the lands when surveyed. I did not have it written in the contract and there was where I fell down and shan't do it again. I had it understood—verbally—with them. Now I had the land bought—an abstract was to be given—the lands were rented and I bought subject to the lease. This I was inspired until the first of the following January, 1910, and it was up to me to get possession. We went there for the purpose of meeting our old home folks and sending them circulars prepared by the land men; also wrote the home papers. Glad to say from reading these articles over the fact I did not have to take up land, such as the raising of two crops and the long time for planting corn. I learned more of the country, as a farming country, from being here and trying to get the farmers to group up and dealing with them and seeing them deal with other people. Down to the farm and saw the renter and talked to him out, so as to get possession, and if there be a rule if you want to get man off of a place you must buy what junk, mules, etc., that he has to sell for farm; and only thing that is pretty expensive. Again on the 8th of July I went down to the farm, saw the renter, Mr. Dover, and wife; visited and talked buying them out, and we had to pay for a house that hadn't found a place to go to yet and he wanted to know where he was going before he would talk sell. On the 11th of July Mr. Moser, some of his folks and I went blackberrying, and here was where I became acquainted with one of the worst insect pests, as far as humanity is concerned, known to this side or anywhere in the world, and that is the chigre; most people call them "jiggers," and they sure are. They are a little red insect and they bury into the flesh and start an irritation that is hard to stop. I sure caught my share of them that day, for I was most laid up from the swollen and irritated condition of my limbs around my ankles. When you go to this country on a prospecting trip in the spring, summer or fall of the year, you will do well to be careful and take all precautions, especially at this time. On July 12th, 1909, we measured the land—215.04 acres—and it was HOT enough for me to ever remeasure, for no other reason; but there was one other, and this leads me up to the snake question of this country—one not to be laughed at, for you know swamps breed snakes, and it is a known fact that the other than India, had it not been for the surveyors, but they being "Swamp East Missouri," the Swamps were as all natives are covered with and side standing the same homes like they did, rather bred a feeling, not
of contempt for the snakes, but for respect for them. We were surveying along the north line of the land, on one of the traveled lanes, when we observed a patch of Jinson weeds, about waist high and crossing the road either into this patch of weeds or the lane, and for several yards of rods, pass the obstruction and measure back onto the line. Of course, I was interested in the measurement of the land and I asked why they had not cut them out. They told me that they did not take any chances with the snakes and advised me not to either. Well, this was a new idea to me and with my previous experiences, I was somewhat causing me a great deal of trouble in getting around. I rather thought that probably I had better be a little careful of what I asked of the snakes. Inquired as to the kinds of snakes I was liable to meet up with and was told of the Cotton mouth, a very poisonous reptile, whose mouth looks like a ball of cotton, from whence it derived its name; the Water Moccasin, also very poisonous and an inhabitant of these or any other swamps; the Spreading Adder, also poisonous, and on our land is killed as high as six in one day in our wheat fields; in fact, they were so thick in our uplands that we could not get our women folks to work the ground that had not been cut. Then there are house snakes, chicken snakes, garter snakes and many more too. These are harmless but the Cotton mouth so used to them that we killed and skinned a great many and once when we had some 20 or 25 tacked up on one of the outbuildings. Mr. Davis, who owns the property, remarked how, had we known the place was as thick with snakes as it was, we never would have owned it, it would either be Mr. Cox that way. Now while our experience with the snakes was more amusing than serious, yet that was not true in all cases, for I know of some cases where children were bitten that came near causing death.

I re-print herewith a couple of clippings from newspapers of this community in regards to some other people’s experiences with snakes. (From the Sikeston Standard of May 31st, 1912)

**FARMER BITTEN IN HAND BY BIG SNAKE, A. J. Davis Was Pulling Up Stump When Reptile Jumped At Him and Held On.**

A. J. Davis, who farms three miles below Sikeston, in Yellville, Missouri, was bitten in the right hand by a monster black snake last Wednesday and for several days was unable to do any work. The reptile held on to his hand as if he were going to get a week’s board at the time and Davis had some difficulty in shaking him loose. The snake was locked under a stump, Davis was out in the field plowing and when he came to the stump, which was old and rotten, he thought to rid the field of the obstruction to some extent before going on with his work. He had pulled the stump up slightly when the snake darted out and made one lunge, grabbing Davis’ hand.

It is said that a black snake is not seriously poisonous, Davis treated his hand with peroxide of hydrogen. His hand and arm swelled somewhat; however, Davis returned to work the next day. For its pains the snake was killed.

A few days before Davis was driving down the road with a team of mules when a rat ran under his horses. He was so startled that he held his horses until the rat ran away. He then passed the place. Recently a fence post crossed the road and frightened his team until the mules ran away. When he got them pulled down and hitched up, he noticed something for the post disappeared in the rye field of A. A. Ebert.

Another little clipping from the *Campbell County News*:

"Will Kendall is our authority for this snake story, sworn to by Bert Knotts and declared true by several other witnesses. One morning last week Bert stepped out into his back yard and immediately was attacked by rattlesnakes. He grabbed a hoe and chopped snakes for near a mile. Bert finally counted 35 dead snakes.

"Mr. Knotts lives in Bray addition to Campbell county, but I would not be surprised if they have them there, too."

We finished the surveying and for the next two weeks I was busy trying to buy out the renter and get possession of the farm and its improvements. After I got acquainted, I stayed around the Land Company’s office. On Wednesday, the 21st of July, 1909, Mr. Pover came in and we concluded a deal for the farm for $4,000.00. The money was paid to the Land Company, and I was to have possession of the farm 5 miles east of Sikeston to see the water that came from the Mississippi River, rushing like a mill race out of a lock. I was not only of that locality but of Sikeston as well, who owned lands bordering on this ditch, or, in fact, in this swamp, piling sand bags at places trying to confine the water to the ditch and thereby save their growing corn. This was a case where the levee at Price’s Landing gave way, and the water flowed to the low lands a plenty in the loss of their crops. At this time I was told the water also overflowed the rocks on the hill near Cape Girardeau and came down through Little River and Sandy land and caused considerable damage along Little River.

Sandy land, or rather sand land, plenty of water and good sweet corn is the characteristic of the Missouri. Watermelons and as this country has all of these requirements, there is lots of melons shipped from this country. Not being able to sell my melons in the city, I got into a deal with Mr. F. Cox and I purchased a car of melons for $110 and I started for Indiana to peddle them out and try and make a little of my expenses on them. When I got to Bluffton, Indiana, I bought and made Mr. Cox a little money for his investment. Took them to Frankfort, Kokomo, and Marion and finally closed out at my home town of Bluffton, but made no money as Georgia melons were ahead and besides I found out that Missouri melons had a bad reputation. I got in touch with the three men that helped me at home and helped start the packing for the trip to Missouri, till August 5th, 1909, then off for Missouri, and landed in Sikeston, August 5th. Land was supposed to be a couple of miles below Charleston to Sikeston, had a good opportunity to see the crops that were destroyed by the recent overflow of the Mississippi River and the beaches of the river lands. By the time we got there, the water was down and the fields were being plowed. Then the next day, August the 10th, 1909, Mr. James Smith, Sr., of the Land Company, suggested that we close up our real estate deal and go to packing down and so I hauled to the cemetery, as a part of the land. I told Mr. Matthews that I did not want to take in the cemetery as a part of the farm, that I could not farm that, and furthermore, it was understood with the Land Company that it was to be measured out. He told me that it would have to be taken in. Mr. Matthews said that I was going to have to follow that way and that would have to go in. Now had I have had it in the contract—written in—I could have recovered for the cemetery, but as it was, I was not in a position to afford to throw up the deal for the sake of a half acre of land as I had bought out the renter and the folks were packing up preparatory to moving down and so I hauled to the half acre in the half acre of cemetery in the farm. Now that cemetery was always there and afterwards
when trying to re-sell the farm, it always showed up very prominently as it was in a very prominent place and while I do not know positively that it spoiled any deals, I know how often the selling of farms is a part of the farm and I judge that numbers of the people that the land companies showed this farm to looked at it in about the same way that we looked at the farm and as the corn would not do to work in for two or three weeks and as it was so fearfully HOT I had my folks wait until the last night of the HOT weather yet this fall as possible. On the 4th of September, 1909, though they landed at Knoxll, our nearest station still I am sure, if not the first in the family that they rode up the "lane" always with about the awful number of snakes there was in this country and when I arrived at the home on the farm that evening they were most scared to death over what they had told them. Although the next day was Sun-
day, we unloaded enough of our goods to have something to eat and bake on and eat to sleep and the next day we finished the unloading and it was well that we did for on Tues-
day the 8th the skies opened up a very deep rain and it was lucky for us that we were under cover for when it rains in Missouri, it sure rains. Went to our farm work, as we were doing the plowing in a meadow and topping some corn and on the 16th of September, 1909, went to Sikeston to finish up the land deal and to see Mr. C. C. Miller, our real estate agent. Now we had contracted for 215.04 acres of land at $75 per acre, which amounted to $16,125, one of the $5,000 paid the other $11,125, then divided into ten equal, annual payments. Here is where I first realized what an enormous commission the land men were getting for selling farms. They sold the farm for $11,125 and sold it out in eleven notes—one of $500, one of $912.80 and the other nine of $1,412.80 each. The one of $500 going to the land men to complete their commission of 5%, $1,285, or $11,125 the farm was sold for. For $2,000. Mr. Matthews would not allow them to have all their commission in cash, so you see I paid, or contracted to pay, and did pay. Let us see, a goodly sum to be allowed to buy a farm in this "Earthquake Zone." Now, as I had a contract with the agency of Mr. C. C. Miller & Markley, real estate agents of Bluffton, Ind., that I was to receive one-half of their commissions on all lands sold in this country, they did not allow me to get any of my commission on the Cook deal, wherein he purchased 210 acres of land $390. So this will give you some idea, dear friend, what the real estate agent or agents think. I know the way two-thirds of them here and locating you, if he does, of course. There is many a slip in selling real estate and as we fellows that locate, as you have, these real estate agents pay many another man's sight-seeeing expenses. Now this is one of the things that I wish to impress upon you—how you can miss the real flint of the matter up at greater length when the home man—down here—bought a farm and comes into this write-up.

In the fall of the year, 1909, after our farm work, gathering of the corn that I had purchased of the reenter to get possession of the land, and sowed wheat and as the fall days came, the evening days, we thought strongly to mind the necessity of laying in winter supplies of vegetables, and as our fam-
ily, as we all then, was small, one of the men on the farm offered me 14 bush-
els of nice looking potatoes for 75 cents per bushel. I bought them and stored them away for the winter. I don't know potatoes well in this country would not keep, but I found it out—paid for more experience. Well, sir, I sorted those potatoes over several times and I learned to do so. I only tell you this that you should come down here to locate that you need not make the same mistake. Potatoes grow well in this coun-
try but they are not meaty like the potatoes grown in the North. It seems there is too much moisture in the ground. They are more like what we called at home the "Muck" potatoes, that was potatoes that were grown in low, swampy places. People as a rule that dealt in potatoes did not care much to sell them at the stores just as soon as they will do to dig and then when in need of pota-
toes buy them right away and what to speak they could do by buying some of this land. I did get quite a number of people from our country down, showed them the land told them what it was, let them see it, and told the same acre commission that we were allowed for selling it to them, we would refund them $1 per acre as they were buying it direct through us and charged the land men, $1 per acre for getting them down here. Had quite a number of home folks down but did not suc-
cceed in selling them a piece of ground and not that I have lived the near four years
and learned by experience how hard it is to get loose from a piece of this land after you are tied up in it, show little improvements in price, even when you clear out the stumps and build it up with peas, etc., as we did this farm. We received $19 per acre more for our farm than we paid for it. I am truly glad that it was not instrumental in locating any one, for it is had enough to lose what we have to without having any one else into the same trap. Now here and there when you have the chance, it is better to have lived here a while and then buy, rather than to come down and purchase direct through the land agent. Mr. Wells County man, and who lives on
Pharris Ridge, near here, was interested with me in trying to get buyers for lands here, and had some lands and was talking of buying a farm and was over to look at the farm north of mine. As we were authorized to sell land by Mr. Matthews, and Mr. Weedman, Mr. C. C. Miller, and Mr. Gen-
eral R. E. Moser, and talked the subject of buying a farm. Mr. Moser had no hesitancy in talking with Mr. Weedman on the subject. He told them that the land was $37 per acre and as it was not much effort to us and would have been a little "easy
money" "picked up," Mr. Moser offered to re- 
bate Mr. Weedman $250 of our commission if he 
would sell me the farm for $15,000 per acre for it, so you see he saved about $600 
by being on the ground and acquainted and I 
learned further that he only had to pay the interest on the $250 before selling the farm. We 
did not have to make a payment on the prin-
cipal until the payment due in 1913, which gave 
me the use of the farm for two years by only 
$250 net. Now, Mr. Weedman, I will 
impress this upon you the advantage it would 
be to live here before buying, if you 
would only do as Mr. Weedman, I will 
have you tell me what his profit comes 
to, and mine cost me and you can figure it out 
for yourself.

He bought 207 acres at $372 per acre, a total of $14,304.

He saved $3 per acre on 207 acres, a total of $621 dollars, besides he did not have to meet 
any payments on the principal for two years. Then there is various other reasons why it is 
better to live here and see the farm before getting tied—up; you can study the dif-
ferent locations and see for yourself where people are raising enough crops to keep a 
house of people on the farm, you can better select a good neighborhood and that is easily worth $10 
per acre on a piece of land as to who you are leasing it to. Now, look at the tax collector, take 
advantage of the stock law and let their 
mules, hogs, cattle, farm implements, in fact 
everything run on the road and down our 
lane. They will make more money the 
next year than the year before and all the 
run out, some of them don't feed their stock, 
expecting them to get their living off the 
range, which in settled communities like ours, means 
the highways or "lanes," as they say. Now 
you know and so do I that when you do not 
feed a hog or cow brute that it is not hard 
work for them to become breedy and I expect 
we would, most any of us, climb through 
the fifth wire in a barn wire fence if we thought 
we could get something to eat on the other side.

I hardly know how to make it strong enough to thoroughly impress it upon you the AD-
VANTAGE to be gained, by you, in either 
 farming or investing on some one else 
or of working for some one before investing 
your money in land, but as we branched out 
in the neighborhood and met other people and 
like to go "down in the swamp," as they say. Now 
you know and so do I that when you do not 
feed a hog or cow brute that it is not hard 
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your money in land, but as we branched out 
in the neighborhood and met other people and 
like to go "down in the swamp," as they say. Now 
you know and so do I that when you do not
Trust deed matter so that you may understand it. I will start by copying the trust deed I gave for the lands I bought, which is as follows, to-wit:

DEED OF TRUST.

This Deed made and entered into this 30th day of June, Nineteen hundred and Nine, by and between Hugh D. Studabaker and Mary R. Studabaker, his wife, of the County of New Madrid, State of Missouri, party of the first part, L. C. Phillips of the County of New Madrid, State of Missouri, party of the second part, and Charles D. Matthews of the City of St. Louis, Missouri, party of the third part:

Witnesseth that the said parties of the first part, in consideration of the debt and trust hereinafter mentioned, and to secure the same, and for the sum of one dollar to them paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do grant, bargain and sell, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part the following-described real estate, situate, lying and being in the County of New Madrid, State of Missouri, to-wit: "All of that part of section seven, township twenty-four, range fourteen, as is lying west of the right of way of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad, and containing two hundred and fifteen and four hundredth acres measured. This Deed of Trust given to secure the balance of purchase money for lands herein described."

To have and to hold the same with the appurtenances to the said party of the second part and to his successor or successors in this Trust, and to him and his grantees and assigns forever.

IN TRUST, HOWEVER, for the following purposes:

Whereas, Hugh D. Studabaker and Mary Studabaker, the said parties of the first part, have this day made, executed and delivered to the said party of the second part, their elevens of promissory notes of even date herewith, by which they promise to pay to the said Chas. D. Matthews, or order, the sum of one thousand and one hundred twenty-eight dollars, one hundred eighty dollars, and seven dollars, payable when due, at the sum of one thousand four hundred twenty-eight dollars, due two years after date; one note for $1,412.80, due three years after date; one note for $1,412.80, due four years after date; one note for $1,412.80, due six years after date; one note for $1,412.80, due seven years after date; one note for $1,412.80, due eight years after date; one note for $1,412.80, due ten years after date. All above notes bearing 6 per cent interest per annum from date. All the interest to be payable annually and is not to become as principal and bear same rate of interest. Parties of first part reserve the privilege of paying part or all of the notes, not due, at any interest paying time, which privilege is granted by third party.

Now, therefore, if the said parties of the first part, or any one for them, shall well and truly pay off and discharge the debt and interest expressed in the said notes and every part thereof when the same becomes due and payable, according to the true tenor, date and effect of said notes, THEN THIS DEED shall be void, and the property hereinbefore conveyed shall revert to and become the property of the said party of the second part, or in case of his absence, death, refusal to act, or disability in any wise, the (Omitted)

Trustee's Sale:

Whereas, and — his wife, by the certain deed of trust dated on the 25th day of May, 1911, and duly acknowledged and recorded in the recorder's office in Scott County, Missouri, in book — page — of the same book of records and register of said county, sold for the undersigned trustee the following-described real estate, to-wit: (Here follows a copy of the description of the real estate.)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, the undersigned trustee of the legal holder of said notes and in conformity with the provisions of said deed of trust, I, the under-
signed trustee, will on the day of , between the hours of 9 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, at the east door of the house, in the town of Benton, Scott County, Missouri, sell at pub-

State a tract of land, now in my possession, containing approximately acres, and together with interest and cost of the execu-
tion of this trust. Dated this day of

, trustee.

Inability to manage your payments under either mortgage or trust deed are wholly bad, for the

M. J. Cox, who had purchased

Massrs. W. P. Chipman & Son, who were wanting to buy a certain piece of property on what was known as Big Ridge, or

and in order to do so, I went to see the owner.

I

Mr. A. J. Matthews, at Silkeston, Missouri, but

and could sell the lot. As another agent had the control of it and if I did sell it, he would have to arrange

Mr. Moser and I were attempting to work directly with our home people in the North and trying to get them located here as

close as the spring of 1912—and some under as much as eight feet of water.

6th of March, 1910, Mr. Moser and I decided to go to St. Louis, Ill., and see the

the Hoosier Land & Investment Company of Silkeston, and as he had some clever seed for

Mr. Moser and I both wished to see

the purchase. Now, as I was short of

and had purchased our land through their real estate agency, I had no hesitancy of asking him to sell me the seed on credit until

after wheat harvest and was very much set

when he informed me that I would have

to secure him in some way. Of course, friends that

a safe way to do business and if

YOU come to this country and attempt to do any business you will find that most of these

money to pay interest on a hotel mortgage for anything you may wish to

that it was quite a surprise to me to

meet with and to right this time from the

to sell the land, or a loan to them. I might bring

and who did come from our community and purchased land through their company. Now, the

Mr. J. F. Cox, of whom I had pur-
cashed the farm, putting their firm in a line to get a commission of $1,075, less what they

paid their foreign agents to get the land down

and back. As the land was

I asked for

was an amount less than $30. It is needless to say that I never asked Mr. Cox for any fur-

further information.

On the 26th of March, 1910, we sowed some oats to make early hay. It does not pay to grow oats as a crop, that is to let them mature

and thresh them same as you would in the North, because the HOT weather of the sum-

mer comes too early to get them up. We have a good crop of them. Of course, you should do as I suggest, that is come down and farm a season before investing in lands, you can find out the truth of this in the way.

Now farming down in these low lands where they are partly cleared and a great many dead trees yet, we have cut our corn and cut many of the "sticks" and it is something like that I am sure. I mention this to show you that here is quite an opportunity to lose some of your stock (horses) and what is more, it is hard to say when fire is put out they catch and some of them burn off, or burn off a limb, which in falling are liable to and often do kill an animal. On the other hand, it is a good practice to have a young Herford heifer in this way, and in a financial sense I was glad it was not a mule.

This M. J. Cox had a tract of land

one being 332 feet above sea level, and while the country we came from, Bluffton, Ind., has an
elevation of only 775 feet. We blamed the low altitude for the high cost of water.

We were needing more power on the farm to care for the crop. We did not have an over-

abundance of money to procure animals with, and seeing the advertisement in the papers of sales of horses very cheap, decided
to try and get a couple of teams of mares from here, so with the assistance of my friend, Mr. Stahlberg, we went into a small town and off to St. Louis to get them. Now, I was told that horses would not live in this country, that the summers were too hot for them, but as this came from people who were directly interested in selling mules, did not believe it, but I found out different. The summers are too hot for horses and it was one of the four that I bought the first summer. Still, as I had only a comparatively small amount invested in them, as I would had bought four mules, I do not think there was a direct and loss of production. Do not make the same mistake; buy mules if you want work

animals, for horses cannot stand the heat.

In the fall of 1910, we were trying to come to see us and the country, and on the 28th of April, 1910, Mr. Herman Wiecking of Bluff-
ton, Ind., dropped into Silkeston and the wide-

aeonum, and it was amusing to hear Mr. Wiecking tell of their getting stuck in the mud. They were coming east on the Canalou-Mat-
thens road and just east of the third ditch the mules pulled the tongue from the wagon and left the team and I told Mr. Stahlberg who was driving, just backed them up to the wagon and wired the tongue in place and on they went. I told Mr. Wiecking that that was losing and he said, "Now I guess not, for the fellow just gathered up the wire out of the wagon. Seems like he went prepared for trouble like that." I told Mr. Wiecking that we did.
out and had just left the foot of the hill on the road leading down into the swamps west from Knoxhill, when he drove into a mud hole or quicksand, and we were very lucky if we wasn't hitched to the vehicle with breast harness and they were not stout enough for these Swampsmen hitches as they are called. At the time we went on and left Mr. Rathbun sitting there 30 feet at least from either solid or dry land—there he was, there was the old, grey mare, he was on the back of her, and there was only one thing to do, off came the pants and he waded around there in the mud on that bright Sunday morning and coupled the power to the mules, and they went in a line to go sight-seeing in a muddy time down here is astride a good mule.

I would not speak of giving chattel mortgages in this way as for myself I think it more than right that a man protect himself when he can, but as it figures out in the general summary of my experience with the people down here, I only think it right to mention the fact here as I go along. That on the 25th of April, 1910, I was called in by Mr. C. D. Matthews to secure him for my grocery account and did so by giving him a chattel mortgage on my wheat crop.

On the 24th of May, 1910, lost a mule, dropped dead, but that is the way it goes; quite a loss to us but we had to stand it. We were digging in the grave to find out something about the nature of the black lands. After about one spade down we ran into what seemed to be an impermeable material and this is what I think this material that gives the water of these low lands such a sulphur taste in fact, there is a scum raises on most all the water of this country and it looks to us as though you were drinking oil. It is this scum on the water in the ditches and sloughs that fools people into thinking they have oil in the water. You can see in many of these water reservoirs, so it looks to you as though you were drinking oil. These sulphate of iron in the water might not hurt you but it gets most of the people and I know of several cases where people that left the country claimed that their worst objection was their inability to drink the water.

I give you herewith a clipping from the Sikeston Standard of December 12th, 1912, that bears right on the above point.

**KEWANEE FARMERS LEAVING, TAKING WATER.**

Jim Pollowell and John Hale loaded their household goods, live stock and chickens this week and left for the highly industrialized town of Toveville, Crawford county, where they will build homes for themselves. They owned no land here. They filled their water kgs with good swamp water and placed them safely in the car so as to have some of the life-giving H2O to take at times when they feel the ties that bind to the swamps tightening upon them. It is said that once a mule drinks of this swamp water and get their feet wet they are sure to come back. So these fellows are taking precautions.

Now, friend, there are numerous cures offered for home-sickness, but these fellows certainly took the remedy with them to kill all of those kind of microbes that might awake in their system.

To come into this country from some distance like we did naturally you are a stranger to the ways and ways of its people and to the people's ways, but if you will start in to farming and are trying to get along on small capital you will soon meet up with a very decided objection that seems to be capitalized to the fullness of its possibilities and that is—I have no better name to call it by—the swamp. It is not only the mud but the bogs and the quicksands and if you and if you meet up with some misfortune, such as the loss of a horse or a pig, they have business in town the next day, if not the same, to inform any one and every one that might have an interest in your success or failure in this country. We are not the only tenants on W. A. White's farm, who is now president of the Hoosier Land & Investment Company, to the north of us a Mr. Joe Weelow of this house who owns a farm that is located on New Glacial to the left of Mr. Smith, a boyhood friend of Mr. C. D. Matthews, and it was no unusual sight to see Mr. Smith walking around and across our farm the day before last. And of course Mr. Matthews would be informed as to how we were progressing whether we went to town or not. I don't know whether we sent anything for this service or not I never learned. But all the large landlords of this country have regularly paid riders to keep a tab on the renters and their progress either forward or backward.

No doubt where you live there are cockle burrs; I never heard of a country where they didn't go, but don't you notice any new use for them? You know a cockle burr when it sprouts carries the burr up with it and thus tops out. So speak, the little green plant, a stock coming along and especially little pigs, gathering everything that is green, eat plant and burr. The burr being too hard a fibre for pigs to digest gets mixed up with the hard projections that they are, set up an irritation that kills lots of pigs. We lost several in the month of June and in trying to account for it they couldn't find the cause. Now when you come to this country to farm and grow pigs, that is a good thing for you to look out for.

To this day when a person stuck in the mud they usually spoke of it as mireing down, but here when you, your animal, wagon, corn, binder or anything else is stuck, you speak of it as "mireing up," just why they use the expression I never learned, but that you do mire up there is no getting away from the fact. When there is not the necessary kind of land or soil for all the different kinds of mireing up, such as in the sloughs, in the quicksand deposits, in the sand blown, in the fields that have been burned, they could mire up most any time, in fact, it had to be an awfully dry time when a team or wagon could not find a place to sink down in the fields. I almost always think of it as you expect to understand when people told me they had seen Dover work for a half day to get his binder going again after mireing up. The only idea I had of mireing up was from the wet weather and like the Yankee I would not show my ignorance by asking questions, but I found out all right when we went to cutting wheat after a rain this last year, the almost pure sand, offers no foundation to pull a machine on and run the machinery, and the team simply drags the machine down into the sand, and if the wheels hit a shell of clay, yet the weight of it will in some sand blows sink it down until it is hard to get through one of them without digging back in. This is one of the worst drawbacks to steam plowing in this country and were you to expect to live here naturally you should hear some prospectors talk, it would be well for you to farm here a season before investing in either gang plow or land, Still I have seen some of these "sand blows" not only in the "sand blows," but in the low spots in the wheat field. We had such an experience cutting wheat in 1912 and when we
were doing the dry and high spots out of 100 acres we had to back over and cut out both ends of the rows. We always try to be sure "mired up" in the straight cutting.

To make a crop—"crap" they call it here—a person will, if he has the least bit of energy left, put forth all kinds of work a)before the ground is too wet to plow your corn, the next best thing is the hoe and this is sure the country of the hoe. "Chopping out" is usually the way to get rid of the dandy jobs on the farm, for it cannot be done with a team or a riding corn cultivator, but must be done with the strong arm and down in the horse's lap. Where the creeklands grow apace, the sprouls do likewise and if you do not want to clear the land next year, if you want to try and raise some corn the next time around. Then it is a better way to get close to the stumps and cut out the weeds, and with the thermometer around the 100 mark, it is sure NOT job! Try it a season before you get tied up so that you have to stay with it until you are able to sell out.

I mentioned about the "sticks" a few pages back and there is one thing that those "sticks" effectually do and that is to hide the view for any distance and I was much amused at the father-in-law of Mr. Arch Cooks, Mr. Charles C. Cook. Said he was doing pretty well and frightenin' the folks, hoed a few rows of corn and sweat like all of the natives do and when he started for home I was joking him about "lavin'" and injures where he could see something more than the clouds go by and when you are back in the "swamps" that is really about all you can do. We have an attention to a number of insects but I do not believe that I have outlined the pestiferous fleas to you in all the glory that they get out of their life and yours down here. I don't pretend to know much about it at this particular stage of my history is that I recorded in my daily record the loss of sleep that we were experiencing from their following their avocation so assiduously. Of course all the busy insects—work in relay and never lose a minute. The country of the full grown flea. Here they grow large enough that you do not have to take a microscope to see them. The seasons of the year are long and so is the working period of the flea. Some people try sharking insect powders and they may get rid of them but I wouldn't keep anything on the floors in which they can hide, but I think you will agree with me, if you follow my instruction, to the point where I'm talking about the health in your property that the best way to get rid of them is to move out of the country. See if I'm not right.

July 25th, 1910, one of my mares died; also threshing wheat this day and when in town the next day one of the Land Company people asked me about the loss of the animal. Somebody had reported it all right.

July 25th, 1910, we lost a fine sow from the heat; a neighbor, Mr. James Midget, lost something like ten head of pigs, but they never had anything on the floors in which they can hide, but I think you will agree with me, if you follow my instruction, to the point where I'm talking about the health in your property that the best way to get rid of them is to move out of the country. See if I'm not right.

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I am more than pleased to record here that the daughter was allowed to get well, but before she was able to be up we were destined to meet up with a loss by death that had more to do with the financial outcome in Milton than at first glance it would seem possible for it to. That was on the 21st of September, 1910, a telegram was received telling of the death of Mr. H. I. Wells, vitally ill within a week at Kingsland, Ind., where some other forty persons lost their lives, and, as he was the brother of Mrs. Studabaker, she left at once to attend the funeral. As I mentioned in the beginning of this history, that Mr. H. D. Cook had made it possible for us to purchase this land, naturally his taking away put us in the position of being necessary for us to close up our venture. As it was, virtually, a partnership affair. How we succeeded and the help we will appear as we go along.

October 24, 1910, we had one of those rains that the old timers like to remember and talk about and real estate agents and land men like to forget. Records from Cape Girardeau give it as nine inches—local people gave it as six and eight inches. Anyhow, it was lots of water and it put most everything afoul. It sure spelled all the pea hay that was curing in the fields, rotted the down corn in the fields and in many ways added to the farmer's loss account. The corn in our low land fields was in water up to the ears and that we did not lose more than we did was a wonder. This was the summer of the newpaper stories and Mr. Waite who had been holding out for $88 per acre for his land, dropped to $30 very quickly.

HAD TO RECORD THE LOSS OF ANOTHER OF OUR HORSES THIS DAY.

October 5th, 1910. To the southwest of our home there was a cypress slough and the big rain sure filled it to overflowing and awakened all the frog population. Hearing such a noise on the morning of this date in that direction we could not make out what it was and I went to investigate, with the results that I found it was made by the thousands of frogs in the slough.

Some Typhoid Fever Clippings.

Jim Lee who was threatened with typhoid fever has recovered and is again back at his restaurant.

Iva Keller, 12, DIED OF TYPHOID TUESDAY.

Remains Taken To Washington, Ind., For Burial—Short Illness.

Iva Keller, the twelve year old daughter of J. H. Keller, who has been the well known farmer living west of Sikeston for four years, died Tuesday night at 10 o'clock. Typhoid fever was the cause of death. She had been ill only a few days when she ended her small life. The sorrow of the parents and a host of friends in the little girl well.

Mr. Keller and his family moved to this country some few years ago from Ohio and have established themselves among us as one of the most respectable and conscientious farmers who have come from the older states to make the new soil of our county productive of bountiful crops. Mr. Keller is most favorably known in the community and his most recent loss by death of a member of his family is suffered by many others than his immediate family.

The daughter of Mrs. C. E. Cudahy, of this city, arrived home last week to visit her sister, Miss Maud Wilson, who is recuperating from her siege of typhoid.

Mrs. Oella Cudahy of Gillespie, Ill., arrived here last week to visit her sister, Miss Maud Wilson, who is no longer suffering from her siege of typhoid.

Jim Twiddle, who is now recovering from the effects of typhoid fever, will resume his work with Cheesman Construction company. Mr. Twiddle's good health and good humor will turn out which bloomfield suffered a year ago.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Cottrell, who live south of Sikeston, is recovering from a few weeks siege of typhoid.

Miss Maud Wilson as again experiencing the kindness of neighbors who have recovered from her siege of typhoid.

Frank Lesley, 15, died Sunday noon of typhoid fever and was buried Monday.

Mary Cook who has been without ill of typhoid fever is still confined to her bed.

The little son of H. G. Kaiser who has typhoid is getting along very quickly.

Joe Twiddle of Bebe, Ark., who was taken down with typhoid fever while visiting the fair, has now left and will soon return home. He has been at Mrs. Scott's, 10/11/11.

Jim Lee, proprietor of the Southside Cafe, is ill at home threatened with typhoid fever.

Joe Waite, who has

J. A. Feasterburnger is sick this week with typhoid fever.

J. W. Snively, who farmed five miles south of Sikeston, died of typhoid fever Thursday and his remains were sent to Washington for burial. Wednesday a wife and two children, had been here four years and was estimable gentleman. He was 37 years of age.

Miss Ida Holley who has been very ill with typhoid fever for the last two weeks is much better at this writing.

Mrs. F. M. Treat and baby were seriously ill last week with typhoid fever but are improving at this writing.

Mrs. Leo Dumey, living about four miles west of town, and two daughters who are in critical condition from a serious attack of typhoid fever. There is some doubt of their complete recovery at this time.

Several Are Ill.

Miss Pauline Dumey, who has been waiting on the sick at her brother Leo's, ever since the death of his wife, is now in bed at her mother's, Mrs. Magdalena Dumey, here in town, with a severe attack of typhoid fever.

Eliza Bill is improving from typhoid fever. 10/15/11.

Miss Magdelina Davis was able to start to school this week after a six week's illness of typhoid fever.

Jose Twiddle has recovered from typhoid fever and has been permitted to return to Bloomfield the latter part of this week.
could not live a year there, unless two of them were doctors.

On the 1st of October, 1919, the Smith Bros. Land Company of Sikeston had a prospective buyer here for the farm and they asked him $110 per acre for it. (Note the price asked.) Later on, they sold the farm to Mr. Prouty at a profit of $150 per acre. The Smith Bros. Land Company had a prospective buyer here in the person of a Mr. Emerick of Casey, Ill., and Mr. Emerick stopped at Matthews and besides looking at the farm, he talked with Mr. and Mrs. White. Mr. Emerick worked on several of the farms around in this neighborhood, learned what they were making in the west, and he was in the owned expenses, had a high opinion of the farm and what the real estate agents were to get for them. To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Emerick, or his father, who was a house agent, was not in Sikeston the past year, never bought any southeast Missouri lands. Don’t forget what I have been telling you all along, before you buy in this country either farm or home, to get a rental proposition or work for someone a season.

December 4th, 1919, Mr. W. A. White of the Hoosier Land & Improvement Company brought a Mr. Bond over to look at the farm. The farm was so much SOLD to the farm and Mr. Bond was afraid of it that they started out to look at it that Mr. Bond went and sold the farm. Mr. Bond did not buy.

December 26th, 1919, sold corn for 40 cents per bushel. (Note, the corn is coming in that way that will give complete gross receipts in general summary at end of booklet.

December 8th, 1919, Buy home from helping a person by 0.33. & Co. have a lot of “risings” they call them in this country, and I guess the name fits all right. While I have not had the chills myself in this country, I hope I don’t have to go through it, because it’s too bad a thing to suit anybody. You see you cannot help breathing this malarial poison in the air and drinking the water, and you must get it or your system sooner or later. One of its antidotes such as quinine, strychnine and arsenic or their combinations as put up in the medicine bottle. You can not buy land in this country that is sold in this country you get rid of it by boil or as they say “risings” and many do the people have. One Indiana person, Ben Prouty, told me they had a German in his farm who was very experienced, but had no marks to show for it.

January 7th, 1911. A wet time. Our boys with the Naxx boys, who were working for us, went to town and laid in a supply of gum balsam and some of the dollars down.

January 12th, 1911. Smallop in the community. Our nearest neighbors, Samuel Green-lea and family, had the smallpox and such a thing as the dirtiest and the dirtiest, etc., is not known down here in the country districts. We quarantined ourselves and glad to say we possessed ourselves of the epidemic and have no marks to show for it.

Now, a railroad stock that does not pay a dividend, a business that cannot meet its running expenses and show a little interest on the investment and a farm that will not pay its taxes, the living of the man that works it and at least a fair portion of the interest on the mortgage, or I should say, in this country, the trust deed that is held against it, is a bad thing to be tied up to, well, we were tied up to the latter and trying to get loose, but while trying to get loose we bought the farm and Mr. Bond had to be met and right along about now, February, 1911, the man that held the TRUST deed, Mr. Emerick, was very, very consistent about that interest. He knew that our backer, Mr. H. D. Cook, had been taken away by that Kingsland Intermural horror that was all over the country and estate agents to try and dispose of the property for us and let us out with a little something, but just get the interest and finally we did succeed. In getting off the sale, the price was raised up $500 more for us and so we were given a little longer lease of life, and with the $111.42 that we paid for the farm from the crop year of 1910, after paying the taxes and running expenses, making a total payment at this time, February 7th, 1911, on interest of $601.42. I will give a summary by years in the back of the booklet of the gross receipts and expenses.

Now, don’t forget as you read along that if you follow my suggestion you will either rent for a season down here or work for somebody else and pay your mother what you can for that matter. Should you fall in love with the country, there will be yet time to pick one of the many bargains in land and should your heart be set on a fine home, you will be yet united and ready to travel.

On the 5th of March, Messrs. Smith Bros. had a lot of men up here to scout the farm and they talked and acted as though they were well pleased with the land and might buy. So, when Emerick, Smith Bros. sent out for Mrs. Studabaker and I to talk him into signing a contract, I say that I was not to sign a contract, to say that we were happy hardly expresses it. We went in with one of their firm ready to sign the contract but with our minds made up, we signed a contract and they signed. They just wanted us to put them in a position so that they could close up the deal in case these parties did buy. I will here in- tantly the contract and you can read it as well as I.

"Sikeston, Missouri, March 6th, 1911. This invoice is the receipt for

Studabaker and Mary R. Studabaker, his wife, of their own free will and accord this day option to C. M. Smith Bros. & Co., of Sikeston, Missouri, undersigned, and the described real estate lying, being and situated in New Madrid County, Missouri, upon the following conditions, to-wit: That said C. M. Smith Bros. & Co., do pay to the undersigned Em-

E. Eighth, 850 Dollars per acre, and it is further agreed that said C. M. Smith Bros. & Co., pay all their own expenses while putting the land in shape for them. Of the eighty-five dollars it will cost us Eighty-five ($85) Dollars per acre, and it is further agreed that said C. M. Smith Bros. & Co., pay all their own expenses while putting the land in shape for them.

We also further agree and do hereby bind ourselves to make warranty deed and fur-
nish perfect abstracts for whatever amount the sale. C. M. Smith Bros. & Co., to net us Eighty-five ($85) Dollars per acre, and it is further agreed that said C. M. Smith Bros. & Co. pay all their own expenses while putting the land in shape for them. Of the eighty-five dollars it will cost us Eighty-five ($85) Dollars per acre, and it is further agreed that said C. M. Smith Bros. & Co., pay all their own expenses while putting the land in shape for them.

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We did not want to take less than $90 net to us when called upon to sign the above option but it was held out to us by this land company that they could not get more for us, but if they had it at that price without a doubt they could close at once with their customer that they had just had out there and WE wanted to close up the matter and get out and so we signed at the $85, and as to what good it done us signing that will develop as we go along.

On the 5th of March I received a letter from the Farmers' Supply Company to come in and secure them for my store account, and on the next day I went in; you see, Mr. C. D. Matthews takes no chances on a loss, for, as he says, "You might die, you know," and if he has your reality safely tied up with a TRUST deed and a CHATTEL MORTGAGE on ALL your personal property there is not much chance that should you die that your family will get away with anything. Well, as I said, I went in, and about the first question asked was, "How's your wheat?" and then, as I had no objections to protecting him fully—not meaning to TRY to beat anyone—I gave him chattel mortgage on wheat crop, what mules that were not already under mortgage and the corn crop that we hoped to grow this season, and all to protect his store for what supplies I might need.

Now in this country there is a fashion to have the private offices of the bank out in the front lobby, and as Mr. Matthews is rather hard of hearing it is necessary to talk rather loud to him in making a deal, and everyone that comes in HAS to hear your business, whether you want them to or not, and it is rich food for the curious ones; and I remember that on this particular occasion I was very much put out that I had to talk my affairs before some very curious people that were not slow in talking it over the country. I was not ashamed that I had to borrow money, but you know that as a rule you do not care to put your financial affairs in the daily papers.

As I have shown you, I purchased this farm of Mr. C. D. Matthews Sr., and I bought my supplies at the Farmers' Supply Company, which was his store. I sold my grain to the Scott County Milling Company, in which I was informed he owned the controlling interest, and as he said to me at one time we were in partnership on that deal down there—meaning the farm—and now as I needed some more mules on the farm he handed me over to his nephew, Mr. A. J. Matthews, to supply that need, as Mr. A. J. Matthews was a mule dealer. Then on the 1st of April, 1911, I purchased of Mr. A. J. Matthews a team of mules for $450, giving as surety there and another team worth as much for a business sense I was in with the Matthews.

When you first come into this country from a northern country it is usually a season before you fully understand affairs in this country. There does begin on you it is usually with a dull headache, which was particularly true in Mrs. Studabaker's case, and from a headache once or twice a week I have escaped a week without a severe headache she thought she was fortunate.

Well and how about this time the roads were particularly bad, and while the picture of our being "mired up" on the 15th of July with a small load of groceries explains in part the delay, you know, there are other things that concern the roads that I mention here. The roads or "lanes" of this country are what you might call a kind of a puzzle to the road builders. There are so many holes in the field that you don't have the time to make into a heap and burn, or if you are not disposed to burn them, haul them to the fence and throw them over into the road. If there is a wet spot in the field and it is at all possible to drain it into the road, do it. "The People Pay the Word" show a tendency to run into your field, levee them out. Turn your stock into the roads—leave your farm implements set out in the road, but in no way ever let your crop enter the road. I have been here in this country—1912—I took it upon myself to look into the road improvement work of the entire county. Without, we had some very bad mud-holes in our vicinity and my boys and I repaired them, did what would have cost about $17,00 to fill them up, and, not wanting to look something at I went in to see what I could do. I made a trip to the county seat work until I was informed that I would be taxed for road improvement, so when I paid my land tax asked the Tax Collector if I was assessed for road tax I was told that I had to pay about $15.50 road tax. I paid it and then filed my bill with the Road District Commissioners for my labor, but as yet have not received my assessment. There is an opportunity for road improvement in this country, and if you go down there either for a season or to locate permanently you can do a great service to the whole people by repairing and building and draining roads.

No better practical illustration of the fact that "The People Pay the Word" could be set before you than this showing and selling of real estate as carried out in this "New Madrid Earthquake Zone of 1811-12." Drop off and send me the next time a letter word about buying land, and you are whirled out to see several pieces of it. Some are partly correct and sincere—some of them are out for a rest at other people's expense, and some of them, so it appeared to us, were out on their honeymoon trip. Of course they would be brought to the horizon, but in the land that was being shown you and you would be allowed—or rather expected—to tell your little story of the country and how well you liked it, etc., but—(then why you wanted to sell). Now if you go to this country and take a part in this sightseeing and buy through one of these agencies you will have an opportunity to see that you are not only paying for your ride, but your proportionate share of all the other fellows, and if you take my advice and either rent or purchase land in this country for pleasure or work, for some one before dealing for land you will have the opportunity of seeing that what I outline to you is true.

The upkeep of automobiles is immense, and in this country, owing to road conditions, both kinds of conveyances have to be kept, which practice is expensive as the following is a sample—"The People Pay It." Try and dodge it.

May 14, 1911.—Along about this time OUR financial condition was seemingly the talk of the town. We had, as I have seen, the "little roll," possible. The real estate agencies wanted to sell it and make their $10 to $20 per acre commission; they were showing up the farm quite often. This naturally had
the subject in our immediate neighborhood at fever heat, and as Mr. White, President of the Hoosier Land and Investment Company of Sikeston, controlled the farm to the west of us, which had been bought up a year or more before the work here he talked our conditions over with his tenants there, and they had the nerve to take exceptions to our ways of doing, even to telling them to cut their hogs. Mr. White, however, said "We would never be able to pay out on the farm if we had to dig it all out of the land in the way they met their payments, they sold lands and made it out of their commissions."

Now if you are figuring on locating in this country to make money on either a limited capital or a long lease, I think you might well be for you to make a careful investigation before so doing. Take this little work as a guide; if you find it trite, you won't think it so good; if you find it otherwise, I trust you will feel that I only delayed you a little.

May 25, 1911.—Thermometer showed at noon 100 degrees in the shade, at 1 p. m. 103 in the shade, and fell to 99.5 at midnight. What a nice, humid atmosphere, it was almost unbearable. Then we had these HOT spells numerous times throughout the season. For 10 days it was 100 degrees in the shade, on July 2d it was 101 degrees, July 3d 101, and July 4th 100. It was a trade wind and while the temperatures did not run high in the meantime, yet it was awfully hot and dry weather. I note on the 17th of June we had 20° above normal, so hot I thought it anyone tells you that the heat is never excessive, that there are always rains when needed, just remember this part of my record, for I kept it day by day for my own satisfaction, and now I am giving it to you without any great cost to you, trusting you will profit the more.

June 2, 1911.—Now I know that hogs die with hog cholera wherever hogs are raised, but what makes the disease more easily communicated is the fact that when they have run down the stock laws permitting all stock to run at large, the sick hogs wander up and down your lane and while you may be ever so careful to keep your sick hogs away from your healthy ones, the danger exists from the animals in the lanes, and on this date I first heard of the disease being in the neighborhood. And on the 23d of August the same year during the late drought and until the 15th of September buried 36, leaving me 9 hogs. It was general over the country at that time. Mr. Seltzer, the owner, was not some of us advanced enough to try vaccination, but to get the serum was the question.

It is the pride of every farmer in this country. Besides all this you are surrounded with cedars, but this conceit if that is the right name for it, was all taken out in 1911—when cedars was the prevailing condition of the land.

June 6th, 1911, rolled around, but we were still the possessors, or in charge of the farm. The Smith Land Co.'s contract expired this day, and, while they had led us to believe that we would be sold out sure by this time, yet still hoping in vain, we were at this time many anxious moments before we were.

June 8, 1911.—To Sikeston and made settlements. Sure, there was a lot covered by that settlement, but the land was not controlled, and the tenants were still as a rule, you must have some money, and to get that money to make settlements we had to sign, and our fund was sacrificed. Before coming to Missouri we had invested a sum in a hotel property in a northern Indiana city and if gave promise of large returns, but we could not get the money to pay this. So we bought land in Sikeston, in the hopes that a serious drought would cause prices to rise, and by living here for some time, we could borrow money and buy the place. After doing this, we bought a farm, and Mr. Keith, the agent, who went to Sikeston and bought a farm, and Mr. White, the President of the company, said it was a mistake. We were then led to believe in Sikeston and made settlements. Sure, there was a lot covered by that settlement, but the land was not controlled, and the tenants were still...
for $90, which price, had he taken it, would have allowed us $5 per acre for all the work we had put on the land.

Aug. 31, 1911.—The poisons taken into the system in this malarious country manifest themselves in very different ways. Some people shed this poison by the real malarial fever and some by the “chills and fever,” and that is the way our youngest boy decided to pass his off, and on the doctors looked for an earthquake, and no amount of covers seemed to check the “shakes.” His antidote for the poison was quinine and calomel, and by a roundabout way he succeeded in getting over the chills for a time.

Sept. 2, 1911.—As I have spoken several times in this narrative, stock run at large in this country, and if you are expected to mark them and register your mark, the gentleman—Mr. Japer Dover, whom I bought out sold me some cattle and hogs, and as they were marked by his mark I asked him to explain it to me, and for your benefit, in case you go to “Swamp-east,” I will give it to you here, and a number of other marks that I took off the register at the county seat, and if you do not know all marking animals you can study up on them and not have a choice in the matter, as I did. Mr. Dover’s mark was “a swallow fork and under-bit in the right and a slit and over-slope in the left. Now, as to other marking, they are practically a variation of the above.

October 5, 1911.—To show you the great care some people will take to see that they lose nothing, on Dec. 19, 1909, C. D. Matthews, the gentleman, on the above date he called me in to talk over my financial affairs with him, and he came to the conclusion that for corn more possibly than my store account would amount to, and to make himself sure that he would get all of it applied on his account, he put both his note and chattel mortgage to him for $1,200 against my corn crop for the interest due on the land notes. This satisfied him, and as I was not on the beat I had no objections to giving it.

October 28, 1911.—It seems in this country that there are more pests work on the crops than in more northern climates—for instance, there is a silk worm that works on the corn that spoils a great deal of the corn. We have so many different small grains which animals eat, and doctors say that is the cause of “pellagra,” that causes the death of numbers of animals in this country; and it is right at this time that some of our neighbors have lost several valuable horses from this disease or from the actions of the animal when sick, which stagger around seemingly unable to see where it is going, which is the cause of “blind staggerers,” and when once afflicted with the “blind staggerers” they seldom, if ever, recover.

Dec. 8, 1911.—We thought sure that the outcome of this day’s work would be the beginning of the end of our stay in Missouri, for early in the day I received word from the Smith Bros. & Co. in Cairo that the day passed Mr. C. M. Smith Sr. with a gentleman by the name of F. B. Harcourt of Rochester, Ill., would be out to look over the farm and that I would have a chance to see Dec. 12th. In fact when I was asked what I wanted for the land. They came and we looked over the land, had dinner and spent the night there. Mr. Harcourt had the understanding that whatever he cared to do about the purchase of the farm that he could arrange with Messrs. Smith Bros. & Co., and that the price of the farm was to be decided by making a deal for the property, and a short time after I received the following letter from Mr. Harcourt.


“H. Sturdebaker, Matthews, Mo.

“Dear Sir—Mr. Smith of Sikeston was here last Monday and said the farm you bought for even money, $20,000, and he said he quoted lowest price.

“If you should take less than $97.50

at any time before March, please advise me and if I have not purchased in the meantime I might trade.

“F. B. Harcourt”

“P. S.—We have cold weather here at present; 22 below yesterday a.m.

“Now, friend, you will no doubt gather from the above that I had almost been in for the Smith Bros. & Co. Land Co. had they been able to close the deal with Mr. Harcourt. At $37.50 to them and $85 net to us they would have made $1,500 and 1/2 and we have had $10 per acre for our cleaning up the farm and getting it in shape for sale. $10 per acre on 20 would be $215, $215 per acre on 21 would be $9,745, and the $1,500 they would have added to which the addition 1 paid of $1,075 for being shown to the farm, would have made $3,575.250 and paid in commissions in a little over three years. As you see, this deal did not go through, and if you are not weary of this narrative by this time read on and I will show you how this farm paid a greater commission than the above when it did pass title.

Dec. 10, 1911.—This is no country for pulmonary troubles, tuberculosis, and in July language consumption, and on this date a young man, Gus Albright, a neighbor, passed away—let it go up to the custom yet in vogue in this country of taking the road to the cemetery in a farm wagon. Of course it does not matter with us when we are dead and so how we got to the farm, only that it does look hard to haul off your friend, brother or relative to their last resting place just as you would any of the stock on the farm.

If you have a friend, not mine, will show you how my business partner, Mr. C. D. Matthews, held me up when he was fully aware that I was in his power. Having sold my corn for me, he demanded my settle, I turned over all I had and did not have enough to comply with my contract. Now to make it short, he said to me, "I say was held up, I will enter into a little detail of my deal so you will know the facts as well as I.

I bought this 215.04 acres of land of Mr. Matthews at $75 per acre on the 30th of June, 1910, and on the 30th of June, 1910, was to pay interest on the deferred payments—I paid $2,600 down at the rate of 6 per cent on the amount due on the farm. Well, I was not able to make this payment, and in fact not near all of it, and at this time, Dec. 30, 1911—had I had a very close friend as able to take up a little more than this year’s interest, then to pay him for not closing in on me. Mr. Matthews, under the Trust Deed, he demanded an extra 2 per cent on all back payments due and unpaid interest, so instead of paying 6 per cent, as I had bargained to pay, being my friend, I made the extra, the day I closed, which to keep from being closed out I was compelled to and did pay extra this 2 per cent interest, amounting to at this time about $30.80.

Now by the sale of this land to me and my working it, Mr. Matthews changed a property that was paying him $3.50 an acre gross rental on whatever the tenant succeeded in getting in to $4.50 an acre NET rental on the entire acreage. He was relieved of the expense of the looking after it, of the depreciation of the improvements on the property, and to make the farm do all it would, I cleared off the timber and removed at least a thousand stumps, gave him all my store business, even buying a thousand acres for me, sold his milling company, all my grain and paid him the interest on all the money I needed to finance the property, which being able to continue this arrangement to his benefit until I might succeed in getting some one to take it off my hands, at this installment he took some of my money and in him was just a starter, though, as I found out later on, and if you continue to read this sketch of experiences in the New Madrid Earthquake Country you will find out.
Grant estate for mules I had purchased at the public sale held by the administrator of this estate in April, 1911, and when I was settling with Mr. C. D. Matthews he asked me what else I had to meet besides his claims, and I told him nothing but this mule note and the one on the farm. But I would expect him to help me care for it when they became due, to which he made no answer, but as was usual on such paper, all he did was to keep the horse money to loan. Now, I had paid

had made a very fair crop and turned him
over all the proceeds of it, I did not think
there would be any difficulty in raising the money on this paper, and still have the stock to offer as security. Well, on this date, Jan. 2, 1912, I went in to see Mr. Matthews about it, and imagine my surprise and feelings when he told me that he had sold the horse

for which he had no money to loan. Now, I had paid

did get a little concession in the same, as I had the right to sell the farm myself, which I did not have in former contracts. At last after a couple of weeks of worry and effort, I had gained, as the prisoner would say, a post-
ponement of my execution, and so I returned to the farm to recoup, but to continue to await and try to help bring about the time when that other fellow would come along and relieve me of my burden.

Now, I have shown you that it does get HOT down in this country, and as I kept the daily weather record all the time I am in a position to and I will show you that it sure does get cold in this country also. Jan. 6, 1912, ther-

ometer showed a temperature of 3 degrees below zero and snow on the ground, just like any winter country. Jan. 12th at 6 a., 15 degrees below zero; 7 p. m., 3 degrees below.

ICEBERGER CHILD DIED OF PNEUMONIA

E. St. John, 17, 115

Excavation, Siphon and Immediately Constricted Pneumonia Taken To Tennessee

Lottie, Mary, Virginia, Iceberger, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Iceberger, of F rice town neighborhood, died recently. Dr. T. L. Green, at 6:30 this morning. Lottie was the first of her name to die, which came only after the child was taken down with pneumonia, the last 5 days of the children, only to be taken down with pneumonia. The little girls were two years, three months, and 14 days of age. The remains were taken to Union City, Tenn., for interment. Mrs. Iceberger, of this city, from Liburn some few months ago, C. C. Iceberger, a brother of deceased, came up from L. B. Brown Sunday.

Will Brown, a farm hand about 30

years of age, married, died Tuesday night at Bertrand on the farm owned

by John L. Brown had just recently

moved to the farm and was down taken with pneumonia. He was buried yester-

day at Oak Grove cemetery.

Miss Jeanette Lewis of West Plains.

Robert Hileman was with his

brother, Mrs. Louis Hileman, of Ill.

nia, when the 17 year old daughter of Mr. H. C. Iceberger has pneumonia. 1/20/11

J. N. Heney, age 54, died at evening, Jan. 19, of pneumonia. He had been deputy marshal of Elvins a number of times.

Mrs. Gus Ray, wife of a tie contractor

in the city of Sikeston, who lived with her family in this city, has very low

degree of health, and the present epidemic of pneumonia is very severe. She was also infected. Two others, a man 13 and 17 years old, with the same complaint at the same time.

Donald Ozement, son of Mr. and Mrs.

Heze Ozement, is seriously ill with pneumonia.

Dr. J. H. Timberman, of Maran,

tob, one of the leading physicians of our county, is reported ill with

pneumonia.

Orval Kane of McMullen, Scott

county, died February 2 of pneu-

monia. Burial took place at the

Morton cemetery.

Miss Emma Heuchan died at the home

of her brother, R. B. Heuchan, Sunday morning at 4 a. m. She took an acute attack of stroke, a few days ago and the doctor came down with pneumonia. The little family was very sorry. The funeral service was held at the cemetery.

Geo. Hahn and his sons, Lawrence

and Charles, are here for a visit.

Albert Hahn, a nephew of the

young man, last named, who died Monday, is from Hamburg, the young man was 22 years of age. His death was sudden.

Don Wells is reported getting

well of pneumonia.

A 4-month old child of Mr. and Mrs.

Monroe Galloway died Saturday, Jan.

11, with pneumonia. Having taken seriously ill Tuesday before

Interment was at the Hart cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Gray, of Mefford, died Monday, where they were attending Mr. Gray's grand-

child, a Mrs. Simpson, who was seriously ill with pneumonia.

Dr. P. M. Malcolm has been ill this

week with pneumonia. His wife is home with it, and his two children, and baby,

have also been down with pneumonia.

Mrs. P. M. Malcolm has been seri-

ously ill this week with pneumonia.

Frank Fossey died at Flat River

Sunday, February 3 of pneumonia.

Some Pneumonia Clippings.

him every cent I had realized from my crop, not even retaining enough to meet the interest on these notes, and then to be thrown down this way at this time did not seem right, but he would not let me have the money, so Mr. Moser and I started out to find it some place else, as he was on the "crazy" side to the Grant estate, and neither one of us wanted to be sued. I went to the People's Bank and explained the situation to the mules and Mr. Moser, who was well worth several thousand dollars, as security, but when they found out I was farming a farm bought of C. D. Matthews and did all my trading with him they sidestepped the accommodation by saying they did not have the money. Then Mr. Moser took a hand, and he found the money for me of C. M. Smith & Bro.; also they had me renew their option for sale of farm, but I
Jan. 19, 1912.—Roads—Highways—"Lanes."—

I have had a good deal to say about in this booklet, and pardon me coming back to the subject of roads here, without a season, or work for some one a year, as I have suggested to you that you do before invected in a piece of land, I will not wonder that they are not in accord to such an extent that I can hardly forget them.

Well, our Northern people had taken so many excellent roads, and how a Northern farmer who had been used to gravel or stone roads would pay more for lands did he have a good road to travel over. We have seen the old roads, and so the King's Highway for a distance of miles and 1,000 feet south of Sikeston, the organized improvement of this historic "Lane" with a stone road. I do not wish to enter here—

that the contract was to be let by competitive bids, and the successful bidder had to give a $50,000 bond, etc.—but it is sufficient to say that on the above date—Feb. 5th, 1912—the contract was awarded to the Howard Construction Company of Sikeston, Mo., who was composed of, as it was generally known, Mr. A. J. Matthews & Sons, and Mr. W. H. Greig, of Sikeston, and Mr. C. D. Matthews of the County, of Sikeston, Mo. at a bid of $85,000, which would make, as you will see, $8,000 a mile cost of construction. Now, should this contract ever be abandoned—it has been in litigation ever since the awarding of the contract to determine the legality of the building of it and issuing of bonds—does it not behoove me to warn you for that money, as you farmers who live in a macadamized road country no doubt know. I hope they get the improvement, for if any country needed roads, "Swamp-east" surely does.

Schools.—No doubt you should go down to this county and see the school buildings that will be called to the school buildings of Sikeston, and I will admit they are good, but get out in the country and study the school conditions and you will find that the Federal Government or the State of Missouri are not doing their share to improve the conditions of education, and in many cases too indifferent to care about their children's education.

Out in the "swamps," where you will live should you buy some of this new land and move on to itself.

Mrs. Studabaker and I counted out one day the number of the school children and school age and were not going to school and we had 15, and among them we knew of one girl 14 years of age who did not know A. B. C. Look well into the school facilities of the community where you expect to locate before you go, and on this point the trying out of the country, so to speak, as I have all along suggested, by going down there and either renting a piece of land for a year or working for somebody will give you that much desired opportunity.

It seemed to us that the matter of educating the rising generation was not so much a public last but a private duty that is looked as though the people that had this care of the future men and women were indifferent as to whether they could read or write. Just the thought of their remuneration of mules or do the housework in a way was all that was going to be required. Other people have a hard time farming for a living.

Jan. 20, 1912.—On this date I called at the Bank of Sikeston—that is, Mr. C. D. Matthews' bank—for my abstract of title of my farm, as I desired to know the value of Sikeston, Studabaker's relatives at Bluffton, Ind., who were trying to find the money to help carry this contract that I would sell it. I had left the abstract here for safe keeping, but it has not been found, and I was compelled to and did go away without it being found, with the understanding that I come in again in a few days, and when I did return in a few days I was informed that it was in the hands of the C. M. Smith Bros. & Co. Land Co. Now, when I went to Sikeston, I was asking the option to this company to sell my farm that I wanted the right to sell my land myself, there were no valid objections raised, but it was granted, and I have since attempted to abstract in their hands did not look right to me, to get it and if it would at once notified them that so that I might see the abstract and my Bluffton, Ind., friends did not give me any relief; and I merely put this in to suggest to you that in case you go down any way they would make out the contract pertaining to the title of your property and that are rightfully yours, and to which you may want to refer to most any time, that you keep them in your desk and refer to it.

Feb. 3, 1912.—Lost another mule with "blind staggerers."

Feb. 13.—Along about this date there was a gentleman by the name of Joseph Schenck of Cypress, Indiana, visiting his old friends and neighbors in this community by the name of Greig, and I am sure he even told me that the reason Schenck would not buy the farm at $80 that Mr. J. F. Cox of the Hoosier Land Investment Company had told him that he could not buy it of us. Mr. Greig told me that he was present when Mr. Cox told him that. You can readily see, friend, why they would make out a contract for should I have sold the land direct to Mr. Schenck they would not have been entitled to a commission and, so far as caring if I ever did succeed in selling out at $80. I don't think any of the real estate men that were instrumental in getting me to make this deal ever lost any sleep over it.

Feb. 22, 1912.—To C. D. Matthews and give him a note and chattel mortgage for $1,200 against my wheat crop, $400 of which was to be credited to him for services rendered in trying to sell farm and the remainder—$800—was to be held in trust until I paid the note out of wheat crop, when it was to be credited on my land note, which was given to Matthews. But C. D. Matthews was taking no chances that any of the proceeds derived from the sale of crops was wrongfully applied as this was arranged for and applied four months before crop was made.

Feb. 23, 1912.—As I have shown and told you, under my contract of sale of farm; or option as they termed it, with the C. M. Smith Bros. & Co. Land Company I had the right to sell farm myself, but did not dare to allow any other firm to buy it. I had given four options for me, so when the Hoosier Land & Investment Company asked me about showing up my farm I told them of the contract I had with the Smith Bros. & Co., and they went to their own farm myself, I also told them that any time that they wanted to buy the farm to come and look at the farm and I would sell it to them, and acting upon this they never did show up the land, relying upon the fact that should they find someone that wanted the place they would ask their firm to buy it, and sell it to the other party. Well, on this date, Mr. E. J. Keith of the Hoosier Land & Investment Company called at my home and told me that he would like us to have a $5 sales contract and that the crop out of the land that is being sold we may be able to purchase out of the sales, or that he would like us to be at home in case they wanted to see us, but not to come around
where they were they come down in that part of the country with strange people that day. Well, we did not give the people any chance to talk to us and they never bought the farm.

Feb. 25, 1912.—We had one of the rains that you read about and the whole country seemed to be all afloat.

March 23, 1912.—Papers over the country be-

Back water from the Mississippi River, 12 Miles South of Sikeston on the King's Highway.

Began to note general high waters and from this date on till near the last of April we were much worried from this cause. On the 27th of the month we went to New Madrid, the county seat of New Madrid County, which is situated on the banks of the Mississippi River near the site of the other New Madrid that

sank into the Mississippi River at the time of the great earthquake in 1811-12, and the water had just began to come up into the streets and on the 30th it was three feet deep in the streets, then on the 31st it was so high that

traffic on the Frisco Railroad was stopped—all but a little local traffic from Chaffee to Kewanee, which condition existed until near the last of April. On the 3d and 4th of April was down. The Mississippi broke through the railroad grade and never had I expected to see anything so near the rapids at Niagara Falls as I saw here. We took Kodak views of it, one of which is reproduced here, and it is much more pleasant to look at this picture now than it was the real waters. You see we lived west of this great Sikeston Ridge and thought we were water-proof, but when it broke through here and began to inundate this west swamp, we did not know so much about it. This was also beginning to seem across the Ridge in several other places farther north and while it brought death, loss and disaster to the inhabitants of the country that was protected by the Reelfoot Lake levee on the other side of the Mississippi River, yet it was a Godsend to us when that levee broke, for the water around New Madrid and to the east of us fell six inches in the one night and gave us the relief that we had to have to keep us from being drowned out. Friend, you may have read of this flood in the papers, or you may have had a friend or relative in this district, but to you who never heard of it, should you be contemplating buying property along a great river, take my advice and be sure to live a year either as a tenant or a hand in the country wherein you expect to purchase before you do, for it will give you a chance to learn all about the country and its possibility of overflowing and drowning you out before you are tied up.

March 24, 1911.—Our youngest boy had a chill today and it took lots of hot water, covers and Jamaica Ginger to warm him up.

While this sandy land will stand a great quantity of water and yet you can work in it, it seemed it would never let us get at our field work this spring. I give you a list of the days that it rained and they sure were a plenty. March 2d, snow storm that was so bad we could not get at the fields. March 5th, snow, high wind, etc. March 11th, sleeted all night. March 12th, cold, drizzling rain from northwest. March 14th, rain all day. March 15th, misted all day. March 21st, cold rain from northwest with a 29 degree temperature, turned to sleet and ice. March 22nd, rained all afternoon. March 24th, rained, turning to snow. March 28th, rained all day. April 1st, rained all day. April 5th, raining again. April 9th, raining. April 14th, raining. April 15th, a heavy rain storm. April 23rd, rained more today. April 15th, rained and hailed some. April 17th, more rain. April 18th, more rain. April 21st, more rain. April 22d, rained hard all night. April 23rd, raining off and on since 2 p.m. April 26th, rained awfully hard all night and very high wind. April 29th, after a very heavy rain, hard hail. April 29th, a very hard rain last night; there is a great amount of water on the ground. We had no more hard rain from April 29th until May 10th, but during all this time the ground would no more than get so that we thought we could plow when another rain and we began to wonder if we were going to be allowed to plant any crops at all.

On the 15th of April our youngest boy had another very hard chill.

On the 29th of May worked some in our potato patch, most of the time killing bugs. This is certainly potato bug paradise, for the weed known as "Bull Nettles" has a jelly leaf very similar to a potato plant leaf, so therefore the Beetle is not entirely dependent on the potato patches for the continuance of his family, and it matters not where you make your potato patch with reference to where it was last year, you will find that Mr. Potato Bug and family will be there to keep you and the other pests company.

There is another pest in this country known as the "Bull Nats" that are about as troublesome as anything and they affect not only your- self but your mother and they frameth cause the death of your animals by getting into their
nearly in great numbers. If you go down there to work a season you will get acquainted with them, all right.

June 7, 1912.—To town for groceries and it was a sight to see all the Following sand piles, it was a hell of a sight to see all the opportunity for the opposite picture. The roads or "lanes" of this country are very narrow—just the road to farm—and when a man can get and return with the load is a case of going to see and here on the 7th of June stuck in the mud with less than $000 pounds of a load.

July 12, 1912.—Wheat threshed and while we were expecting a good yield of from 25 to 39 bushels to the acre, as the straw was there, you may as well buy your corn, and try to get the balance of 15 bushels to the acre on 129 acres rather hurt my paying taxes for the year's work.

This was a loss to us of right at $1,800 and you know what it means, especially when you are already close up.

Aug. 2, 1912.—For some time I had been running along under no special option or contract with the further brokers to the Land Company, other than the fact they that they carried my notes of $500 on and omission of $1,875 that I had not been able as yet to pay the interest, and the further loan of $500 to take up the mule note of Grant estate, which was made in the form of a one-day note and it looked to me as though the money would soon be due, so ap- plying for Jumps side wise it would be like my trust deed on the land—made effective. Well, on this date they called me in and I follow with the new contract or option that I signed.

"Sikeston, Mo. Aug. 2, 1912.—This is to certify, the undersigned, Hugh D. Studabaker of July 12, 1912 day option to C. M. SMITH BROS. & CO. of Sike- scott County, Missouri, all of my following doing business under the name of in New Madrid County, Missouri, upon the following conditions, to wit:

That said C. M. SMITH BROS. & CO. pay the sum of $5 per acre net to me for their commission and services rendered me of selling the land herein described, free of expenses to me.

Said land is described as follows:

"All that part of the south half of section of 14, lying west of the right of way of the St. Louis & San Francisco Rail- road, containing 215.94 acres more.

And it is further agreed by the undersigned, Hugh D. Studabaker, am to have the right to sell the above described land myself but not through any other agents or real estate agents, except C. M. SMITH BROS. & CO., who are my sole acting real estate agents.

This option to expire January 1st, 1913, at seven-thirty p.m. on that date, and shall remain in full force and effect until said date.

Hugh D. Studabaker,
C. M. SMITH BROS. & CO.
E. H. D. Mgr.

You will notice from the above contract that I had the right to sell this land myself, but not through any other agents or real estate agents. Still it does not specify just who I can sell it to.

In to see Mr. A. J. Matthews and Mr. Mat- thews gave me his views on life's trials and successes. I talked to him on this subject.

We talked on general topics for a while and finally he took up the above topic and

likened our success in life to the feeding of your little dog "Towser." Now, as he said, Towser was a good dog and you thought lots of him but when you came to feed him you saw he wasn't worth a thing. Likewise, it was no fun with him. You would take a piece of meat and hold it up and say, "Come, Towser, let's see if you can jump as high as this:" And Towser who was yet active and able to jump, was about to get his breakfast you would hold it just a little higher. Trying him out, so to speak, to see just how high he could jump. It is local and wherein he was doing the holding up of the "meat" he would not have to stand up on the rounds of a chair to get it out of his reach as Mr. A. Matthews is a very tall man.

Now, if you go down to this country, as I have been representing the west to you for a season for work or somebody before investing "your little roll." You can make the acquaintance of Mr. A. J. Matthews and learn to bow him as I know him yourself.

On the 5th of August, 1912, Mr. A. J. Matthews and his son, Emmory, came out in their automobile and took a look at our farm. Company that I had the farm mostly in peats instead of clover and as I told the folks I suspect that had I had the land mostly in clover would have been worth more. I have been better had I had it mostly in peas, for at this time of the year peas show up by far the better. Well, the unship of their visit was that he offered to purchase about 100 acres near Hoosier L & Investment Company, yet the conditions they compelled me to sell them under, as I will show you when I get to it, did not seem to suit me.

Now, most of the land in our immediate neighborhood was on the market and my neigh- bor to the north, Joe Weedman, and his farm on the market. Joe was a great share croppin' lean, and his share croppin,' as they say down here, and one of his share croppin' had a very poor piece of corn. It was 'some yeller,' it did not look good and active and you might imagine how bad it would look to a prospective land buyer. Well, as Joe was going to sow wheat here, anyhow, he said...

Aug. 9, 1912.—Had a rain and hail storm that did a great deal of damage to the corn.

Aug. 12, 1912.—Rode to Matthews with Frank Parish of Matthews and Twitty's helper, who are all from Indiana and their experience with the claws and fever had them very much discouraged, Mr. Parsons being almost blind for a month.

Aug. 20, 1912.—Mr. C. M. Smith, Sr., and party of land men hung up in mud hole and worked quite a time to get out. Boys and then hunted up some scrapers and filled up the holes gratuitously.

Just to show you or rather emphasize what I told you earlier in this booklet, if you would come here for a season and rent or work for someone before tying yourself up, you might miss getting tied up along side of one.
ence to me, so I wrote Mr. Woolington to come down and I would sell him my farm, and the date that he sold it to me in the night train, gave him the directions how to reach my place so he would not have to make any inquiries or worry about getting there was going to be no trouble for, so that no real estate agent would get hold of him and possibly tell him what a poor, old, sand farm I had, or, in other words, I want to say, that he had any idea in the world of my instructions except he brought a Mr. White with him and when I found out that he was trying to interest Mr. White in my farm I told him of the C. & W. Co., and another man out going over the farm. Dr. Dunaway came hurrying to the house for a spade and asked me to help them all I could to get the truck lined up and have the chickens and they sure would do right by me. I told him that I dared not let them sell this farm to anyone as my contract with the people was to sell the farm myself, yet I did not dare to let them sell it to anyone for me. Well, they looked the farm over and away they went. The next day Mr. J. Co. and the Hoosiers came by and asked me to go to Sikeston with him as they wanted to try and buy my farm. I went along and we put in our contract the following day and back the next day and entered into the following contract with Mr. Lindley for the sale and purchase of my farm.

To "Sikeston, Mo., Sept. 4, 1912.

This is agreed and entered into this day, Sept. 4, 1912, by and between Hugh D. Studabaker of New Madrid County, Missouri, party of the first part, and William P. Lindley of Scott County, Missouri, party of the second part. (Signed)

"In consideration of Twelve Hundred Twenty-five Dollars ($125.00) each given by said Studabaker to Charles D. Matthews June 29, 1909, as to be assumed by the said Lindley as part payment on the herein described land (said Studabaker owes A. J. Matthews) $1,125.00 note given by said Studabaker to Smith Bros. Realty Co. interest thereon and other considerations hereinafter named.

"Nine promissory notes of $112.50 each given by said Studabaker to Mr. A. W. White June 29, 1909, as to be assumed by the said Lindley and interest thereon.

"The balance due Studabaker is to be paid in a promissory note dated October 1st, 1912, and to be due January 1st, 1913, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. The first payment on account of the above and Studabaker owes A. J. Matthews.

"Making a total consideration of eighteen thousand dollars ($18,275.00) to be paid as above set out for 215.04 acres of land, said land described as follows, to-wit:

"A part of the south half (west of the Frisco Railroad right of way) of Sec. seven (7), Twp. twenty-four (24), Range fourteen (14), New Madrid Co., on the consideration of the above the said Studabaker agrees to deed by warranty deed, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances except covenants of seveths, and interest thereon to and including December 31st, 1912. Said Studabaker to pay up all interest to January 1st, 1913. Studabaker to pay all taxes and assessments falling due in the year of 1912 and prior years.

Said Lindley to pay all taxes and assessments falling due in the year of 1913 and thereafter.

Said Studabaker is to furnish abstract on or before fifteen days from date of this contract, signing his good and marketable title to the herein described lands, and said Lindley is to have fifteen days after receiving abstract to approve same. If it is not approved he is to deliver an abstract showing a good merchantable title, then the $1,125 is to be refunded to the said Lindley.

The said Studabaker agrees to pay to the said Lindley $150 as rent on the herein described land for the year 1912, but is to have all of the balance of the price of the farm, and agrees to abide by the above contract, which I am further understood that the said Lindley is to have possession of all lands not now in crop, or before October 16th, 1912, for the purpose of sowing winter wheat and have possession of all of the rent of the farm and buildings not later than the 15th of February 1913.

The said Studabaker is to execute warranty deed, properly signed by himself and wife, and place same with copy of this contract in the courthouse at Sikeston, Missouri, and, in case I ever settle in escrow by said bank with instructions that when the conditions in this contract are fulfilled then said warranty deed is to be turned over to Mr. Lindley. If said Studabaker fails to perform the due said Studabaker (after deed of trust notes and interest computed to January 1st, 1913, as given in promissory note dated October 1st, 1912, and assuming (as above) interest at the rate of 6 per cent, payable annually, turned over to said Studabaker.)

WILLIAM P. LINDLEY.

Now this contract was the source and beginning of lots of trouble. I did not want to lose that farm but I should be to lose my money at the same time. I only wanted all I was asking for and it was just right that I should be compelled to pay interest on all his paper until the first of January, 1913, but Mr. White told me plainly that they would not make the deal unless I did, telling me that, while they expected to use the farm in a trade with Mr. Amos of West Lebanon, Ind., where they were going to put the farm in at $125 per acre and take an elevator at $10,000, yet they could not make this deal unless I would either give them one-third of the corn or $5,000, in Siloam, and interest from 1st of October to 1st of January next, a period of three months. For, while they wished to buy the farm of me and let me out, yet they were not going to presume me of losing money on it, and I did want to get out, so I signed the contract, took the money and went away and I took up the notes and made it up and they turned over the abstract that I left with the bank of Sikeston, as I explained to you a while ago.

Now I had my suspicions about that corn rental and extra interest, but was not in a position to gratify my curiosity at that time, as I had my personal property yet to dispose of but the minute I was cleaned up in Missouri I went straight to West Lebanon and saw Mr. Amos and showed him every note that gave you when I get to that point in my narrative.

September 7th, 1912. Our oldest boy, "puny," as they say, they didn't do much malarial and malarial fever working on him.

September 16th, 1912.—In Sikeston and in conversation with the president of the Smith Bros. Land & Investment Company, Mr. W. A. White, he told me of the Smith Bros. & Co. Land Co., calling over Dr. Dunaway of their firm and going to take over my farm, adding further that he had adjusted the matter, however, by going over that evening and agreeing to pay them a commission on the deal and that they need have any fear—that was, if I had any—of the Smith Bros. & Co. Land Co. making a demand on me for their commission under my contract.

Now, as you possibly have noticed reading along in this deal, we had not received any real money, just been changing our indebted-
ness, so to speak, yet Mr. Lindley did advance me $50 on the sale, but we needed a little more ready money, and Mrs. Studabaker going to town, I told her just to step into the Bank of Sikeston and see Mr. C. T. Matthews and get $50, and she was very much wrought up when Mr. Matthews would not let her have it. Well, in a few days I went in and saw him myself. He told me of Mrs. Studabaker borrowing for some money and wanted to know if we still wanted it. I told him the needs still existed that I asked for it for; then he took up the matter of my selling out and told me that the Hoosier Land Company would not figure up the interest at a greater rate than 6 per cent, and that if I consented him to let the deed go through I would have to stand for the extra 2 per cent he had spoken about to me. As I could not help myself, I could do nothing else than comply, and here I gave up another $81 and some odd cents to keep from losing all, which, with the $28 I showed up as a starter, I in all paid about $112 to keep from having the trust deed provisions executed against me. Now friend, if you want to you can get a VERY cheap lesson from this experience of

mine. Well, I secured this extra 2 per cent—what I was back in the store—and the $50 cash that we needed, and had to have with a chattel mortgage on all our personal property that was you lending and not under cover already. I had to pay $1 for that mortgage, also, and will explain that fully when I come to it.

September 22d, 1912.—Well, we had our amusing experiences as well as our serious ones. Pleas were quite bad at this time. Do most anything you can not to rid of them, and, knowing that extreme heat, rightfully applied, would pacify them, I decided

up an experiment. I took my underwear and, placing it in a large pan, placed another over it, then put it in the stove oven and left it there until I thought it was heated through; then took them out and shook them over a newspaper and counted the results. I had thirty-four. Should you go down there for a season you might try it. Lots of fun.

Every country has its peculiar songs, sayings, etc., and from them you get a very good idea of the country. Never was this more truly given than in the following few verses, which show up the credit class—and it certainly is right:

It's "Charge It" on McFarlin Farm.

It's over the hill, across the knob; Go to McFarlin's to get you a job. It's hard times on McFarlin farm— Hard times, my boy.

Go to McFarlin's to get you a job, he'd push back his hat and say, "Yes, by golly, I'll work you a while." It's hard times on McFarlin farm Hard times, my boy.

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Mr. McFarlin claims to be boss— Barrelful of money, but won't come across. Hard times on McFarlin farm— Hard times, my boy.

Mr. McFarlin pays his hands in the fall And some of his hands he don't pay at all. It's "charge it" on McFarlin farm; It's "charge it," my boy.

Mrs. McFarlin, she wants a new dress. She'll go to the counter and pick out the best. And it's "charge it" on McFarlin farm; It's "charge it," my boy.

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Clippings of Chills, Fevers and Cures.

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Well, if you want a pair of shoes, it’s too get an order from A. J. Matthews. And it’s “charge it,” my boy; it’s “charge it,” my boy.

O meaty! O meaty! without any lean. And it’s “charge it” on McFarlin farm; it’s “charge it,” my boy.

Well, Mr. McFarlin, he thought he was rich, so he ran his old thresher off into the ditch. And it’s “charge it,” my boy, it’s “charge it,” my boy.

About everything among these “shear croppers” is set to the above lines of expression in the way of rhyme, and if you are here for a while you will learn that there is more truth than fiction in it.

October 16th, 1912.—It seems that our eldest boy was not to get off with chills and malaria, but must shed some of his poison via the “rising” route.

October 20th, 1912.—So far, Mrs. Studdaker’s affection from the climate had been confined to headaches and light fevers, but this day she was taken with a regular chill, and her constitution was so affected by it—that for an hour her circulation was hardly noticeable. Such cases need heroic treatment and as quickly as we could she was taken to Hotel Marshall in Sikeston, where, under the careful treatment of Dr. T. V. Miller and a trained nurse, Mrs. Carroll, after one more chill the chills were checked, and in just a week he was taken home again.

Now we were more than thankful that we were in a position to, and could do this, but did you have a good crop on your farm and we unable to move the money out of the land, you would dislike to have to pay it out for outings of that nature. Her week’s treatment cost about a hundred dollars. You can hardly realize how pleased we all were that our days in this malarious climate were numbered, and from this time till our public sale, January 30th, 1913, I had Mrs. Studdaker stay in the north all that I could.

November 18th, 1912.—Naturally, enterprising medicine companies advertise their wares, and, as in the country where malaria and chills exist to a greater or less extent, and general stores, drug stores and doctors have sale for anything that looks like it might be good for the “shakes,” it is not to be wondered at that signs like in the picture that I hand you here-with appear on the fences, buildings, trees, etc., and that is not a beginning of the chill tonics prepared and sold and, for your selection, should you care to lay in a supply before going, if you are interested in a drug store or have a friend that is, I print you a list that are manufactured and sold, I am informed:

List of chill tonics that you might wish to select from:

Chill-l-Tonic.
Armidstead’s Ague Tonic.
Aspinwall’s Fever and Ague Tonic.
Chabot’s Chill Tonic.
Ford’s Chill and Fever Tonic.
Griger’s Chill Tonic.
Granger’s Aromatic Chill Tonic.
Grove’s Chill Tonic.
Hill City Chill Tonic.
Howell’s Chill and Fever Tonic.
Job’s Chill Tonic.
Kidd’s Chill Tonic.
Knox’s Chill Tonic.
Leonard’s Tasteless Chill and Iron Tonic.
Lillybeck’s “Two-Bit” Chill Tonic.
Loxa Bark Chill Tonic.
Mendenhall’s Chill and Fever Tonic.
Plantation Chill Tonic.
Planter’s Tasteless Chill Tonic.
Poison’s Chill Tonic.
Dr. Pyne’s Chill and Fever Tonic.
Red River Chill Tonic.
Rich’s Tasteless Chill Tonic.
Schab’s Laxative Chill Tonic.
Simon’s Tasteless Chill Tonic.
Smith’s Chill and Fever Tonic.
Stark’s Tasteless Chill and Fever Tonic.
St. Joseph’s Chill Tonic.
Ucatan Tasteless Chill Tonic.
Uncle Bill’s Chill Tonic.
Vick’s Lactated Chill Tasteless Tonic.
Wintersmith’s Chill Tonic.
Wood’s Chill Tonic.
Rexall Chill Breake.

November 21st, 1912.—Our eldest boy and I went pecan hunting in what is known as the 8th John’s bayou country and camped in an earthquake-torn-up country on the banks of this bayou where the water was said to be for feet deep during the high waters of last spring.

November 23rd, 1912.—As I have been showing you all along, this country is mostly inhabited by the white race, and the white chills call it “heat a block” when it comes to moving around. Some of them stay a week in a place and show a little anger, and, in fact, it seems to you that the country is always on the move. We saw the section wherein we lived changed completely, other than ourselves, for we were safely the hundred dollars. You can hardly believe that in the near four years we lived there.

December 6th, 1912.—While in St. Louis with some live stock, I met Mr. J. F. Cox of the Hoosier Land & Investment Company, and in talking over the progress of my settlement with them on land that I sold to Mr. Lindley, he told me if I would call at the office when I

Fence and Tree Decorations.
returned to Sikeston that the boys would settle up with me in full, as they had the money to do it with. Now, to make my point clear on this, will have to tell you in regards to their renting the farm to a Mr. Gable, which can only be done in my contract that I sold out under which I stated I was to have possession of the ground and buildings and all that was due me, on February 15th, 1913, and it seems that Mr. Gable was not made aware of this fact; at least they were trying to get me to give up possession, and possibly get that money, and the farm. To make it real effective, Mr. White told me that they would pay me money if I would consent to do anything against the situation you can—this family moving in with you in a homestead that had not proven any too large for your own family, and all to get a homestead. I told Mr. White that I would wait, and when he saw that his bluff would not work he told me to come in the first of the week and they would see if they could raise the money. I am only putting you wise, so to speak, for should you go down to this country to live, you will run up against some of these people and, while they might not treat you that way, yet you will be posted as to the fact of the way they treated me.

December 11th and 14th, 1912.—In the reclamation of this “SWAMP” country the great thing is the ditches and their permanency, for these ditches have to be made and paid for, and the land is too valuable to be otherwise. Now this country is underlain with a body of sand of a very fine nature; in fact, it is so sandy that it is spoken of generally as “quick-sand,” and whether that is right or wrong, scientifically speaking, yet it does not have much stability to it, especially when immersed in water. In digging one of these ditches through this sand, it is not long in filling up to whatever depth you find the sand under the top soil, so when I speak of not being able to maintain a ditch deeper than to within three feet you strike this sand vein, you will understand what is meant. Now I was here long enough to see the harm done your land and crops by injudicious letting of water to get off in time after one of these very heavy rains—to see some of these old ditches reclaimed, etc. One I will speak of in particular was just one mile to the west of our home. I knew as Ash slough or Second ditch, and in the summer of 1911 it was redug and made considerably wider and to the depth of Royan’s county. At other times I do not have as to the filling up of this ditch, on the 11th of December, 1912, I went to this ditch at a point where the 12 and 13 crosses the same, and as there was a small lateral ditch dug into Ash slough here, I went a few rods up the ditch so as not to be too close of the land and it ran to the Bank ditch, which ran through my farm, and measured this as to depth and found it to be forty-four inches to the water, and water eighteen inches deep, or a total depth of five feet and two inches, and this after it had been dug only about one year and six months, and the end of the filling up is not yet, for the bank on the 12 and 13 is still there. Then on the 12th of December, 1912, went down to New Madrid to pay taxes and on the way went west of Kewanee to take another picture of the land that I took picture of this spring, intending to show how effectively a crop of corn had grown. On the picture of the "RAPIDS" was taken last spring, and the

maintain a depth of drainage in this country unless they find a way to keep this “quick sand” from undermining the banks of the ditch and filling it up. In a conversation with Mr. Murray, surveyor of Scott County and head of the Murry Construction Company of Sikeston, he bears me out in this, and added further that the only way to do it successfully would be to concrete the bottoms of them, which any good thinking person will see at a glance is impracticable, not to say impossible. I had come to the conclusion, and I believe you will also, once you go to this country and study the proposition carefully, that the only time that you will get a crop in this country is when it is in an ordinary dry year.

December 17th, 1912.—Into Sikeston, and, even if Mr. White could not get me to give Mr. Gable a room in the house to live in and allow him to bring over his chickens, they paid me what was coming, as shown by note on the land deal, and I immediately made settlements with the note given Mr. Matthews, to protect store account, and the extra 2 per cent interest he charged me for allowing me to sell out as I did, and here I want to elaborate a little on the interest question. A part of this note was given for extra interest on interest, and on top of that I paid interest on it and also the store account, both of which he had to have always pay interest on store account, but this was the last chance, so it seemed to me.

A “Cleared” Field.
effects of them are still here. Ballast all over the land for quite a distance—gulls, etc., were almost entirely eliminated. And I have simply destroyed as far as farming is concerned, without a large amount of work.

In the spring of 1912, Mr. H. G. B. Hodge, who thought she was to get out of Missouri without any further malarial troubles, yet in this she was disappointed, for she had another chill that lasted two or three days. He went as arsenic, because she could not take quinine.

January 1st, 1913.—I thought that I was going to become involved in another, for I was incident to a change of climate like coming to Missouri, but in this I was to be fooled, for at this time I began getting boils—"risings"—on my back. I had not "risings" within the next thirty days, but I had to keep at it, for the public sale to come off the 30th and things had to be looked after, as I sure kept at it, "risings" or no "risings."

January 11th, 1913.—While in New Madrid a short time before this date and copying our trust deed from the records, I heard one of the deputies remark that she had an awful amount of work to do that had just come in, and he had forty-five chattel mortgages, and this party said, "Oh, that won't amount to much, as you will only have to register them, as he only files his mortgages."

I asked him if they only "filing mortgages," and it was explained in this way: When a mortgage is spread of record in the names of Mr. A. B. and Mr. C. D., and the mortgage is filed it only costs ten cents. This was a new one on me, and as I had been giving Mr. C. D., Matthews several mortgages and paying $1.00 each for them, I was curious to know how he cared for his mortgages, and I looked them up and found that he filed his chattel mortgages and that he had seven (7) at a total cost to myself of $7.00, and that he was doing a filing of 70 cents. Of course I gave these mortgages to protect Mr. C. D. Matthews in selling me his potatoes, and I thought it was kind of a matter to you, dear reader, that when you go to Missouri to work for a season or make a crop and have to have credit you can be in a position to know how to protect your credit and make off your of necessity and accepting their assistance.

January 30th, 1913. Public Sale Day. I was more determined to get out of this country that instead of renting farm when I sold land and trusteeing to following the usual custom of this county and myself to our farm implements and other personal property, I decided to make a long story short and hold a public sale, and so from generous advertising and what Mr. Amos had a fair crowd and things sold fairly well. I would not advise anyone, however, to run against the usual custom of the country, as you are more than apt to lose to.

February 5th, 1913. While my sale ad read that all goods were to be settled for before being moved, yet where people were supposed to be as good as A. J. Matthews, or his sons, Lyman, in particular, I did not enforce the rule, and by so doing I got to the extent of about $12. I had sorted the corn, but did not get Johnson County White—of a very pure breed—and in order that people might bid on it in some quantity, I had had a bushel each and so informed the auctioneer. Mr. A. A. Ebert, of Sikeston, Mo., that he should sell one pile with the privilege of taking as much from each pile as they wanted and that each pile was supposed to contain about 12 bushels. Well, I was not present when he made the statement to Mr. Matthews, and it was not until the day, and when I went to hear Lyman bid off one pile at $1.00, and when Mr. Ebert asked him how many he wanted, said he would take the rest of the pile, and the average price was 60 cents per bushel, which was less than the feed corn. The worst of it was that I did not object to the bidding of it off, neither did I try, but Lyman did not settle for it that day, and when I had the clerks, Messrs. Deane and Case, call him up over the phone about it, he made all kinds of apologies, so they said, and agreed to refund for it at once. Waited the next day for check which I did not receive until the next day in Sikeston the next day, I told Messrs. Deane and Case that I would call at their office, after our trading at 2 o'clock, and Mr. Lyman and settle with him there, and as that was on my road to leave Missouri, I did go to Sikeston the next day and to their offices and when I spoke of returning a check for $1.00 I had taken the corn home and weighed it and it fell short quite a number of bushels, and as Mr. Ebert had guaranteed it to be 12 bushels on the pile, I was to figure from, telling how we had arrived at that amount, but here I was—ready to leave the country—all settlements made but this one — did he not think it had been weighed by one of their tenants out in the country, just how and where I did not know, so I let it go and settled with them at the reduced amount by which I lost at least $12 on A No. 1 seed corn that they had already bought at the ridiculously low price of about $3 per hundred, as I have stated before. Matthews had said that the check was in the mails I waited for Messrs. Deane and Case to report it, so about 1 p.m. that evening they came in, in a very little good humor but no check and had to insist on Messrs. Matthews & Sons giving a check for the reduced amount—so that I might not be delayed in any way while returning to Chicago for this trip in—trying to help me and getting a settlement out of these people on this small matter I paid them $12, before I moved out, and paid that seed corn, did I? Now a word to the wise is sufficient, and I trust, friend, you will profit by my experience.

February 7th, 1913. From Sikeston I went direct to West Lebanon, Ind., and here met Mr. Charles Amos, who said he was the party that had bought land of Mr. Lindley that I used to own and had heard he had moved to Chicago I thought I would come by and see what kind of a talk he had had with the boys, and asked him if he received either directly or indirectly any benefit from the fact that I gave up to Mr. Lindley $150 rental on the land and he said he had not. Then I told him that while I was there I would be glad to make a trip for his convenience, and I had talked the deal over and he told me that they did not wish to buy my farm unless they could resell it and that they could not resell it unless I gave them a guarantee for this year and I would have to pay the interest until the 1st of January, 1913, on the vacant notes. Mr. Lindley's notes were for $1,200, and he was cashier and he read over his contract and told me that he did not receive the $150 rental, and he had to begin paying interest on the deferred payments from October 1, 1912, so, reader, you can see that in addition to many other things there was at least a conflict of statements on the matter, while in truth there was only one statement which was correct and all right for there to be, for I sold the land to W. P. Lindley, and Mr. Amos bought it of Mr. Lindley, and I had given Mr. Lindley paying interest on about $14,000 from October 1, 1912, to January 1, 1913, and at the rate of 6 per cent interest to Mr. C. D. Matthews, and up to that time Mr. Lindley had been paying an extra 2 per cent for accommodation—not enforcing the provisions of the trust deed—and on the other—separate contracts. And Mr. Amos paying 6 per cent on I suppose a like amount, from October 1, 1912, to January 1, 1913, and also that $150 rental on farm was lost for me, and that I would have to deal with the feeling with Mr. Amos that he had been skimmed, but I could see that he was leaning towards me, and I asked him what they had done with the elevator he had sold for and he told me they had resold it and he did not know just exactly what they had received for it, but it was either $5000 or more. He had asked Dr. Dunaway what they received for elevator and he said $4,000 and then I asked Mr. White and he told me a little more than
now there was some commission that they tried, that is, Mr. Amos said Dr. Dunaway tried to collect off him for sale of elevator, but which he did not pay.

A total commission of

Very near $4,000. Is it not? Well, of course they had some expense in this matter, but you can figure that at whatever you wish to.

Now I trust I have made this clear to you, friend, as I have been telling you all along I would show you how there was LARGER FISH in the DITCH than I was. Now to recapitulate and show how this poor old piece of swamp land is Commission ridden, will add to the above the $1,075 that I contracted to and had to pay and you will have a grand total of $5,040 that has been saddled upon it in less than 4 years, and in all that time it has not paid anything like a profit.

Now, friend, the most striking lesson to be learned from my booklet is right here, and as I told Mr. Amos had he come down to Missouri and investigated the farming land proposition DIRECT, even had he stayed around there a season or worked for somebody he could not have made greater money, for as I showed him if he would have paid me $1,395 more for my farm than I received he could not only have had my farm but retained the elevator himself as well, as it is he has a farm at $40 more per acre than I asked for it and the real estate agent business has been wonderfully encouraged.

That there are numerous real estate agents in southeast, or more familiarly known as "swamp-east" Missouri, is not to be wondered at. I see in the Sikeston Directory that there are 17 that is in Sikeston alone, and you know where they live, in the best of homes—have automobiles, etc., that some one has to pay the freight. I herewith reproduce a picture of the fine home of James Smith, Sr., said to have cost $20,000 or more, and also a picture of the automobiles of the Hoosier Land and Investment Company. The upkeep of things of this nature is immense, as no doubt you can imagine if you do not know, and it is necessary to be turning this swamp land over pretty often to provide the revenue, so if you are contemplating going down

This IS a Very Fine Home.

here for either an investment or a home, better go down awhile first and study the situation and see whether or not you wish to contribute to the above needed revenue. You might want a little for yourself, and I have tried my best to call your attention to a way for you to reserve it unto yourself.

Now I expect there will be affidavits taken of people to show you that I have misrepresented things and all that kind of work, but will say to you, find out the party that made the affidavit, study his interests in this country, and what you would do under the circumstances. I will say to you truthfully that I was so anxious to get out that I would have almost made an affidavit that black was white had I been asked to.

Now, in ending up this little booklet let me lead you along a short review of my rubbing
up against these several parties and what it cost me both in real money and worry and I do not much wonder that men go to pieces like "Whistling" Tom Meyers and end it all.

The first I met up with was the Smith Bros. & Co. Land Co. and this was at a time when they had associated with them the first four members of the Hoosier Land and Investment Co. They sold me a farm of 235.84 acres of land at $3.50 per acre and afterwards when it developed that I could not pay out they tell me that I should not have overbought myself, and thinking they will possibly tell you the same, will say that at the time I purchased this farm my brother-in-law, Mr. H. D. Cook, was living and as he was worth some $5,000 and had furnished me the money to make my first payment and had assured me he would see me through on the deal, I expect you would have been like me and went ahead. The real trouble came when he was killed and it was a case of close up the proposition. The Smith Bros. & Co. Land Co. carried my land note for $500 that was given as a part of the commission, and in addition to this furnished me with $500 anywhere from $2,150 to $4,300, had they moved the property.

Mr. C. D. Matthews, who furnished the land for the deal with me as I have previously shown you, had a tract of land where I bought the first out of, of near 1,100 acres that he had not been able to get the land companies to sell, and my purchase and efforts to sell more of it caused it all to be soon closed out, and from a proposition of getting about $5.50 per acre rental GROSS on whatever the renter would get in, to a sure return of $4.50 per acre NET on whatever acreage was sold and whatever improvements were made on the property, also the profit he made off my trade, off of whatever accommodations he would show me in his bank, off of whatever grain I raised on the farm that I always sold to the Milling Company that he was the heaviest stockholder in.

In return of all this, or what I could say on top of all this change of investment to the profit side of the ledger, because I had to have accommodations, he charged me $1.00 per challet mortgage, when he file them for 10 cents, compelled me to pay him an extra 2

The Upkeep is What Hurts.
and then Mr. Lindley of the Hoosiers bought the farm of me as I have shown you in the last few pages. I have shown you that my trip to Missouri was a success and have obtained the tabulated receipt and expenditure account that follows you will notice amounts of my store account with the Farmers Supply Co. of Sikeston, and without a doubt you will be told to you that we were a very extravagant family. If you care to and will look that part of it up I would be interested to have you tell on the Farmers Supply Company and look over the itemized statement of our account that they kept, and if you find extravagant purchases the way we made them. Summing it all up, friend, remember what I have told you, should you go down to this country and it looks good to you and wish to take over the cut and will profit by it when they read it and have the opportunity to profit by it. You know and I know that a spirit of unrest is always present in some of the people of each community, and it is only natural that they go to the country that is represented to them to be one flowing with milk and honey, and as far as I am concerned I have decided that I must ask you to help a little, and that is remit me 25 cents each for all numbers of this booklet you can use. Should you not desire to hand the booklets over to your friends, I am sure they would appreciate moving to a new country and would like for them to have a copy, mail me a list of addresses that you wish them sent to and a remittance to cover the same and I will take pleasure in mailing them the booklets. As to my responsibility and honesty I would refer you to any of the bankers of my former home town, Bluffton, Ind. These booklets will only cost you a quarter apiece and it might be the cause of saving some of your friends. Well, figure upon what I would have saved had I not gone to Missouri, and besides, it would impress upon them the advisability of spending less and know the way they are dealing with. I think I have made it clear enough in the foregoing pages that there are people in Old Swamp-East Missouri that are on the make, and are not particular who they make it off of.

Please do not throw this in the waste basket, as it is a record of my lost efforts in this malarious country. Give it to one that can profit by it, and if they do not heed they will have opportunity to compare accounts some time in the future.

Appendix

To you, Mr. Banker, trusted man of your community, to whom I have mailed this little booklet, full of safeguards for your friends, I trust you will be interested enough to read it and see what it gets to the individual and will profit by it when they read it and have the opportunity to profit by it. You know and I know that a spirit of unrest is always present in some of the people of each community, and it is only natural that they go to the country that is represented to them to be one flowing with milk and honey, and as far as I am concerned I have decided that I must ask you to help a little, and that is remit me 25 cents each for all numbers of this booklet you can use. Should you not desire to hand the booklets over to your friends, I am sure they would appreciate moving to a new country and would like for them to have a copy, mail me a list of addresses that you wish them sent to and a remittance to cover the same and I will take pleasure in mailing them the booklets.

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Financial exhibit.

1909.

Received from sale of corn... $1,525.00
Received from rent of land... 525.00
Paid for corn... $1,227.00
Paid taxes... 150.00

Interest on investment to Jan. 1, 1910... 483.84
Living expenses from June 29 to Jan. 1, 1910, inclusive... 600.00
Seed wheat... 100.00
Help taking off corn crop and putting out wheat, about... 300.00

Short for year 1909... $2,569.84 $2,350.00
1910.

From sale of wheat... $972.42
From sale of corn... 314.12
Short for year 1910... $319.84
Interest on investment to Jan. 1, 1911... 967.68
Taxes... 100.00
Loss by death of animals... 280.00
Store account... 746.16
Extra help and threshing account... 127.14

Short for year 1910... $2,505.26 $1,867.82
1911.

From sale of wheat... $1,056.00
From sale of corn... 174.80
Short for year 1911... 155.00
Interest on investment till Jan. 1, 1912... 967.68
Taxes... 206.00
Extra help clearing land... 150.00
Store account... 91.61
Store account... 114.82
Extra help in taking off corn crop and shearing... 115.31

Short for year 1911... $3,514.63 $2,259.50
1912.

From sale of wheat... $835.00
From sale of cow peas... 149.00
Short for year 1912... 445.53
Interest on investment to Jan. 1, 1913... 967.68
Taxes... 190.36
Hulling peas and baling pea hay, also threshing wheat and extra help... 258.65
Farmers Supply Co. (store account), not in following note... 265.80
Farmers Supply Co., which includes about $200 worth of farm machinery... 400.00

Short at time of farm sale and of personal property... 2,525.02 $975.00
1912.

Received from sale of farm—original investment... $2,000.00
Received from sale of farm—Increase in valuation... 2,350.00
Received from sale of personal property... 2,510.00
Short at time of sale of personal property... $1,500.02
Paid commission note of $100 and interest $101.50 to M. Smith Bros. & Co. Land Co... 601.95
Paid to C. M. Smith Bros. & Co. Land Co, for money advanced to take up mule note... 525.77
Note of C. D. Matthews covering store account and part of the extra 2% interest charged... 517.00
Mrs. Studabaker's malarial sickness... 87.10
Baling and threshing pea hay... 110.00
Horse note and interest to C. D. Matthews... 339.00
Farmers Supply Co., store account... 73.68
B. Moser, for cash loaned and interest... 124.00

31
W. M. Busby, store account, about 30.00
Remitted Studabaker Bank on original loan 700.00
B. Moser, peas 65.00
Repairs for machinery, wagons, blacksmith bill and goods of Farmers’ Supply Co. in November 78.00
Advertising sale and expense of posting, etc. 30.00
Auctioneer 25.00
Remitted Studabaker Bank on original loan 1,500.00
Clerks at sale 19.00
Expense loading car, freight, etc. 82.50
Farmers’ Supply Co. for account in December 67.88
Cash spent as shown by individual cash account from Sept. 1, 1912, to Feb. 1, 1913, and not included in above 133.98

$6,960.18 $6,460.00

Short at closing of account 500.18

No doubt the reader will have noticed that the revenues I have accounted for were derived from either the products of the farm or the sale of the farm and personal property, and according to the above I come out $500.18 in debt. Now to this I must add a difference of what my original investment was—$2,800—and what I paid on it—$2,200—an amount of $600, making a total of approximately $1,100.00. These extra amounts being secured from friends in Bluffton. I also used some $500 derived from the sale of my hotel stock to carry the investment along which I have not included in the above.

Take it all in all I am right at $2,000 behind on the deal, so I trust, friend, you will be very careful in taking up a farming proposition in “Swamp-East” Missouri and follow my advice to either try a rental proposition for a year or work for somebody else a season.

With every best wish that your experience may be the direct opposite of mine, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

HUGH D. STUDABAKER.