

MONOPOLY AND CORRUPTION

DRIVE A WHOLE FAMILY FROM THEIR HOUSE AND HOME.

In the Spring of the year 1870, I bought a farm in Bergen county, State of New Jersey, and built there a new and comfortable house for my family, with the intention of making it my permanent home. At a great expense I made several improvements, and with the aid of my neighbors, we succeeded in draining the already sluiced salt meadows so as to enable us to raise all kinds of cereals, and with prosperous results. In this, our combined efforts, we greatly improved the neighborhood, and thus contributed to the health of the surroundings. For three years, from 1874 to 1877, I had fifty head of cattle in pasture on some of these meadows, and cultivated about fourteen acres of the same with good results, which enabled me to comfortably support my family. It seems as if this progress did not meet with the approval of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western R. R. Co., and this company apparently opposed these improvements, in order to keep these lowlands under their own control.

While the railroad company pretended to be on our side they actually assisted one R. Furman in flooding our lands, and thereby completely ruining our crops and making our improved meadows almost valueless.

Since I was the heaviest loser by these manipulations, I commenced legal proceedings against this Furman, not knowing then that *he* was upheld and backed by said railroad corporation. The trial lasted for several years, where the case could easily have been decided in a comparatively short time. The decision, I have the honor to add, was published in a small pamphlet in 1882, and circulated in several parts of the State. My object in distributing the pamphlet throughout the State was simply to find some influential parties to render me some assistance in obtaining justice. A perusal of its contents will give the reader an inside and concise view of the heartless manner in which I have been treated by my legal advisors, and also by the Court of Chancery of the State of New Jersey.

CONSPIRACY, CORRUPTION, PERJURY, ROBBERY AND MALARIA.

The first year we lived there we took the malarial fever. The cause of this sickness I traced to the salt meadows near by, which had been drained by sluices and dams for many years.

One of the sluices was destroyed which caused the lands to be flooded, and this made the neighborhood unhealthy. At about that time I made the acquaintance of Mr. Pike, and with his help and the help of the property owners in our district, we repaired the broken sluice, built a new one, and repaired the banks, so that in 1873 our meadows became dry, healthy, and profitable; when, through the intrigue of Renssalar Furman, some of our dams were again broken and our meadows flooded.

For our protection then, we re-organized the Kingsland and Sawmill Creek Co., and in 1874 a supplement to an Act of 1848 was passed, making the D., L. & W. R. R. line the northern boundary line of our sluice district. We repaired the damage done through R. Furman, and all was well until 1877. I raised all sorts of crops on the meadows with good success. Meadow owners mowed good grass thereon, and the whole neighborhood was very healthy, even the fruits on the upland were benefitted by it. Peaches and cherries, which rotted on the trees before they were ripe while the meadows were flooded, now became ripe and healthy, and so with other fruit. I have made it my special business to watch the effect of tides of the Hackensack River on the health of our neighborhood, and found that lands which had once been drained must be kept so or malaria is the sure consequence, and drained meadows will shrink from 1 to 2 feet when under process of drying and can never be put back to their natural state; and therefore, our lands are from one 1 to 2 feet lower than the tide meadows above the line of the old sluice district. If any tide water is allowed to flow from the tide meadows upon our drained lands, it is bound to stand there in pools and be dried up by the sun, as the land in our district is now uneven and has been so for a hundred years, as I understand.

In 1874 and 1877, R. Furman dug new ditches and connected the same with the tide waters of Berry's Creek, flooded our lands for the purpose of ruining my crops and inciting a lawsuit. I went with several neighbors to said Furman, and asked him to close up the openings he had made, but it was of no avail. I was picked out to be robbed by the Hackensack ring, of which Mr. Furman is a member. I then depended upon the good government of the State of New Jersey, and the justness of her laws; went to Garrett Ackerson, a leading lawyer in Hackensack, to sue, through him, said Furman for damages. After Ackerson had fooled me for two terms of court by not bringing up suit, he promised to get me an injunction against said Furman to prevent further damage, and as the openings which Mr. Furman had made kept increasing in size, Ackerson promised that the injunc-