

Chapter 10. The Prince of Bankruptcy: John Henry Kirby: Source Notes and Bibliography

Figures

10.1 "Industrial Awakening of Texas" (Kilman 1953)

Footnotes

3 "Moses of Texas" "the leading ... financier" (*Timber Resources*, p. 10)

4 "The statements ... to be" (Kirby, letter to Fariss, September 9, 1902, p. 365)

5 "a dead sure winner" (Kirby, letter to Silsbee, December 6, 1901); "a gold mine" (Kirby, letter to Calhoun, December 7, 1901, p. 352)

6 "blackmailing job" (Kirby, letter to Silsbee, February 16, 1905, p. 692)

16 state chain store taxes (Bradley, p. 1383)

17 "Kirby was ... faded away" (Hale 1960)

Source Notes

Kirby birth information (*Timber Resources...* p. 9)

"first great industrialist" "home-grown multi-millionaire" (Lasswell, p. ix)

"Without ... Corporation" (Fellows, p. 5)

"Father of Industrial Texas"

"The Greatest ... Texas" (quoted in King 1959, p. 1)

banquet specifics (King 1959, pp. 1-3; Lasswell, pp. 90-91)

company capitalization and purpose (quoted in King 1959, p. 2)

"She is rich ... creature" (Kirby, untitled speech, 1901, p. 1)

"Lucas ... Beaumont" "The whole ... sands" (Kirby, untitled speech, 1901, p. 1)

"Here now ... of" "splendid ... forest" (Kirby, untitled speech, 1901, p. 2)

"my especial pride" "a thing ... unlawful" (Kirby, untitled speech, 1901, p. 3)

"shall be ... sold" (Kirby, untitled speech, 1901, p. 4)

"toilers" (Kirby, untitled speech, 1901, p. 3)

"Men of Texas ... the world" (Kirby, untitled speech, 1901, p. 5)

"the father of industrial Texas" (Lasswell, p. x)

"whose ... win!" (quoted in Fellows, p. 2)

"million-dollar smile" (quoted in King 1959, p. 5)

Kirby attributes (Lasswell, pp. x, 34, 76)

"every day ... me" (quoted in McNealy)

"a noble ... make-up" (quoted in Lasswell, p. x)

fearless (Dionne 1940, p. 12)

"ability ... difficulties" (Lasswell, p. 76)

"talent for drudgery" (Lasswell, p. 45)

early Kirby companies (King 1959, pp. 6-7; Lasswell, p. 63)

Southwestern Oil Company (Kirby, letter to Wing, January 3, 1901, p. 913)

"Business ... good" "There are ... him" (Kirby, letter to Nelson, November 20, 1899, p. 9)

"Money ... easy" (Kirby, letter to Chew, December 27, 1899, p. 112)

"mammoth lumber concern" (Kirby, letter to Wing, January 3, 1901, p. 914)

"monopolizing... territory" "It will be ... basis" (Kirby, letter to Wharton, November 19, 1900, p. 543)

Spindletop vs. world production (Clark and Halbouty, p. 79)

new companies from Spindletop (Bradley, pp. 1088, 1298-1300; King 1970, pp. 93-95)

"revolutionize ... America" "The demand ... cited" (Kirby, letter to Peabody, February 5, 1901, p. 217)

“20 or 30 ... co-operation” “a valuable ... privilege” “temporary ... advantage” (Kirby, letter to Silsbee, February 15, 1901, p. 451)

“My plan ... oils” “I expect ... get in” “It’s different ... Rockefeller” (Kirby, letter to Cooper, February 13, 1901, p. 391)

national timber market (King 1959, p. 10)

One Plan, Two Companies

Haskins & Sells (Fellows, p. 3; Lasswell, p. 81)

“something ... Santa Fe” (Haskins, quoted in King 1959, p. 23)

Calhoun’s bigger version (King 1959, p. 27)

Maryland Trust Company (King 1959, p. 16)

“timber certificates” (Lasswell, pp. 81–82)

“establishing ... business” (quoted in King 1959, p. 30)

stumpage agreement (Deed of Assignment, 1; King 1959, pp. 27, 36)

Problems

acreage problems (Lasswell, p. 94)

“most wholesome” (Kirby, letter to Fariss, November 16, 1901, p. 30)

sawmill problems (King 1959, pp. 53–54; Lasswell, p. 77)

loan reduction (King 1959, p. 47)

Kirby-Calhoun problems (King 1959, pp. 51–52; Lasswell, p. 93)

“tramping in the dark” (Kirby, quoted in King 1959, p. 59)

“a problematic speculation” (Kirby, letter to Calhoun, November 29, 1901, p. 216)

“Mr. Calhoun ... big money” (Kirby, letter to Farris, December 7, 1901, p. 367)

two cents per barrel (Kirby, letter to Calhoun, November 29, 1901, p. 217)

“We Texans ... tank cars” (Kirby, letter to Dies, November 28, 1901, p. 173)

accounting problems (King 1959, p. 50, Kirby, letter to Ball, September 19, 1905, pp. 103–10)

Fuqua, “a purely ... accounting” (Kirby, letter to Ball, September 19, 1905, p. 103)

“It is the most ... progress” (Kirby, letter to Fariss, September 23, 1902, p. 899)

Maryland Trust resolution (King 1959, p. 50)

state antitrust action (King 1959, p. 48)

“a very ... black-mailer” (Kirby, letter to Kent, December 10, 1901)

McFall’s ambition (Kirby, letter to Link, January 27, 1902, pp. 847–48)

“The pendency ... locality” (Kirby, letter to Lanier, January 27, 1902, p. 849)

“keep ... Texas” (Kirby, letter to Robinson, December 14, 1901, p. 475)

“for certainly ... crowd” (Kirby, letter to Wortham, December 14, 1901, p. 471)

“Enterprise ... conditions” (Kirby, letter to Webb, March 21, 1902, p. 404)

“What was ... business” (quoted in Lasswell, p. 93)

sawmill deficiency (Lasswell, pp. 97, 102)

trackage shortfall (Kirby, letter to Polk, May 14, 1903, pp. 861–64)

payroll problems (Morgan, pp. 189–90)

three-cent oil vs. five-cent water (Yergin, p. 86)

late start; break-even operation (King 1959, pp. 63–64)

\$3 million overdue (*Maryland Trust Company, Trustee vs. Kirby Lumber Company, et al.*, February 1, 1904, at 45)

Kirby re-mortgaging (Lasswell, p. 110)

stumpage statistics (Kirby Lumber Archive, 1904)

Bankruptcy

receivership (King 1959, p. 110)

run on the bank, news from Kirby (Kirby, “My Dear Governor” February 6, 1904)

7 of 17 mills shut (Kirby, letter to Jordon, June 2, 1904, p. 487)
"Wall Street Plot" (Kirby, quoted in Fellows, p. 4)
attacks on Calhoun (Kirby, letter to Eagle, April 27, 1904, pp. 465–66)
"sagacious ... affairs" (quoted in King 1959, p. 3)
\$2.5 million arrangement (Lasswell, pp. 126–36)
"I furnished ... the wind" (Kirby, quoted in Lasswell, p. 137)
\$1.5 million offer (Kirby, letter to Irvine, August 2, 1909, p. 168)
"an aggressive ... ends" (Maxwell and Baker, p. 101)
Andrews, Ball, and Streetman (Kirby, letter to Irvine, August 2, 1909, pp. 164–65)
"place ... corporations" (Kirby, quoted in Lasswell, p. 110)
"Both ... solvent" "The sole ... marketable" (Kirby, quoted in Lasswell, p. 111)
countersuit and counter-countersuit (Lasswell, p. 113)
"There ... Company" (quoted in Lasswell, p. 112)
misrepresentation; crony board of directors (King 1959, pp. 81–82; Wheat, p. 19)
lawyer bonanza (King 1959, p. 83)
"Those Wall Street sharks ... shall regain" (Kirby, letter to Sharp, June 2, 1904, p. 490)
"You would ... there" (Kirby, letter to J. T. Kirby, June 2, 1904, p. 491)
"I held the crowd ... able to do" (Kirby, letter to J. T. Kirby, June 2, 1904, p. 492)
childhood successes; "he could ... win" (quoted in Kilman 1937)
Kirby feats (Kilman 1937)
"Kirby ... Chain!" (Kilman 1937)
"You were right ... million" (King 1959, p. 5n13)
"Calhoun is ... show of you" (Kirby, letter to Farris, October 30, 1905, p. 589)
"The enemy ... proposition" (Kirby, letter to Davidson, November 19, 1906, p. 600)
1906/07 railcar shortage (Kirby, letter to Ripley, July 6, 1906, p. 529)
no dividends (Kirby, letter to Davidson, November 19, 1906, p. 600; Kirby, letter to Irvine, August 2, 1909, p. 162)
end of bankruptcy (King, 1959, p. 85)

Resurrection

Kirby earnings to buy Kirby Lumber ("John H. Kirby Addresses Mill Workers," p. 32)
"I cut ... it out" (Kirby, quoted in Kilman 1937)
"Peace ... demand" (Kirby, letter to Calhoun, May 14, 1908, p. 616)
1909 decree specifics (Andrews, Ball, and Streetman, 319, 322–23)
Kirby desire in 1903 (Kirby, letter to Smalley, July 7, 1903, p. 371)
trustee rights (Houston Oil Company of Texas, pp. 3–4)
"squatters and shyster lawyers" (Kirby, letter to Randolph, January 24, 1907, p. 647)
one mill (Kirby, letter to Calhoun, May 14, 1908, p. 617)
"The bulk ... a salary" (Kirby, letter to Silsbee, June 29, 1908, pp. 364–65)
no dividends (Kirby, letter to Bryan, October 16, 1909, p. 431)
"We are going ... the product" (Kirby, letter to Ripley, July 6, 1909, p. 535)
"there would be ... distance" (Kirby, letter to Ripley, July 6, 1906, p. 532)
"very agreeable" (Kirby, letter to Dobbins, August 24, 1909, p. 486)
6,300 men, 12 mills (Kirby, letter to Bryan, October 16, 1909, pp. 430–31)
"golden decade" (Maxwell and Baker, p. 160)
postreceivership status (Fellows, p. 5; Lasswell, pp. 124, 134, 138)
Fordyce and Houston Oil (Fellows, pp. 6–7)
cut-or-pay contract (Fellows, p. 4)
12 to 18 mills (Kirby Lumber Archive 1951, p. 9)

no dividends (“John H. Kirby Addresses Mill Workers,” p. 33)

“the most ... debt” (Red Roosters of Houston, p. 39)

“not being ... oil man” (Kirby, letter to Swenson, October 18, 1920, p. 64)

Kirby Petroleum Company (Van Buren, chapter 33; www.kirbycorp.com/corp/history.cfm)

HOC sale for \$243 million in 1956 (Lasswell, p. 200)

The Great Man

“*pro bono publico*” work (Kirby, letter to Longino, December 18, 1920, p. 654)

titles and positions (Kilman 1937; Lasswell, pp. x–xi, 160–66, 182–83; Maxwell and Baker, pp. 103–05; Morgan 1971, p. 197; Wheat, pp. 23, 27)

“getting ... purpose to expand” (Kirby, letter to Greenwood, October 15, 1930, p. 41)

political loss (Wheat, p. 15)

Houston’s wealthiest (Lasswell, p. 176)

“big things ... way” (Lasswell, p. 117)

philanthropies (Texas House of Representatives, p. 21)

“the first ... Texas” “governor ... God” (“John Henry Kirby,” 1940)

“lawyer ... philanthropist” (Dionne 1951, p. 3)

Patriot and Protectionist

U.S. Constitution and Bible (Lasswell, pp. 149–50, 164–67)

open-minded Democrat (Lasswell, p. 144)

anti-FDR (Lasswell, p. 185)

“We hear ... liberty” (Kirby, “What Capitalism Means,” p. 2)

railroad nationalization (Bradley, p. 977; Kirby, “The Address of the President,” May 20, 1918, pp. 11, 16–17;)

corporate tax (Kirby “The Address of the President,” May 20, 1918, p. 16; Lasswell, p. 182)

price-fixing opposition (Kirby, letter to W. H. Sullivan, August 15, 1918; Lasswell, pp. 160–62)

“Shall we ... Courts?” (Kirby, letter to J. H. Keefe, July 20, 1935.)

1917 antitrust suit (Lasswell, p. 126)

1921 antitrust suit (Lasswell, pp. 168–70)

trade unions and radicalism (Muller, p. 314)

“I am ... will stand” (“John H. Kirby Addresses Mill Workers,” p. 32)

“We will ... business” (“John H. Kirby Addresses Mill Workers,” p. 33)

“so hard” (quoted in Kirby, letter to Bryan, September 28, 1909, p. 224)

“Certainly ... single car” (Kirby, letter to Bryan, September 28, 1909, p. 226)

12 mills vs. 400 and 4,000 (Kirby, letter to Bryan, September 28, 1909, pp. 227–28)

“does ... basis” (Kirby, letter to Bryan, September 28, 1909, p. 228)

“I am not a protectionist” (Kirby, letter to Bryan, October 16, 1909, p. 433)

“on all ... toward any” (Kirby, letter to Bryan, October 16, 1909, p. 434)

“tariff-for-revenue Democrat” “new philosophy ... materials” (Kirby, letter to Hardwicke, October 29, 1920, p. 257)

Southern products for tariff (Kirby, “The Tariff ...,” April 18, 1923, pp. 1, 3, 5)

“Nationalism ... great” (Kirby, “Our Nation,” undated, p. 8)

“Is any man ... suffering?” (Kirby, “The Tariff ...,” April 18, 1923, p. 14)

“We paid ... Asia” (Kirby, quoted in Lasswell, p. 190)

more than 50 organizations in STA (Kirby, “The Tariff ...,” April 18, 1923, p. 4)

forestry imports vs. exports (Wattenberg, p. 538)

minimal price effect (Kirby, “The Tariff ...,” April 18, 1923, p. 2)

net imports (Wattenberg, p. 538)

“that a man ... gives him” (Kirby, “The Tariff ...,” April 18, 1923, p. 11)

“Very probably ... account” “It is ... I object” (Kirby, letter to Cousins, March 7, 1930)
\$50 billion bond proposal; press reaction (Lasswell, pp. 191–92)
“Having played ... money?” (Lasswell, p. 191)

Bankruptcy, Again

Kirby bankruptcy; assets and liabilities (Lasswell, p. 192)
3 of 12 mills running (Kirby, letter to F. Kirby, August 25, 1931)
Pacific Coast lumber project; tax problems (Lasswell, pp. 184, 192)
“Personally ... business activity” (Kirby, quoted in Lasswell, pp. 198–99)
“I face ... come back” (Lasswell, p. 199)
Houston’s shock at bankruptcy (Lasswell, p. 193)
Kirby Lumber bankruptcy (King, 1959, chapter IV)
post-bankruptcy title, salaries (Lasswell, p. 194; Texas House of Representatives, p. 41)
“I’m feeling ... Kirby” (Hale 1979)
cash and debt at death; estate resolution (Phelan)

John Henry Kirby Reconsidered

Unquenchable Optimist

“Houston Oil ... country” (Kirby, letter to Wing, April 5, 1902, p. 651)
“Kirby Lumber ... itself amply” (Kirby, letter to Fariss, December 7, 1901, p. 738)
“The financial condition ... of America” (Kirby, letter to Jordon, July 24, 1903, p. 558)
“the iron facts” “after eighteen months ... enterprise” (Kirby, letter to Fariss, December 7, 1901, p. 738)

“Lord Bountiful”

\$8 million in charity (Phelan)
“This man ... lived” (quoted in “John H. Kirby Is Honored...”)
“No man ... help” (Dionne 1951, p. 4)
“When again ... his like again?” (“John H. Kirby Is Honored...”)
“He never ... each one” (Dionne 1951, p. 10)
“Lord Bountiful ... person” (Lasswell, p. 140)
“Creditors ... check” (quoted in Reichelt)
Democratic Party contribution (Lasswell, p. 184)
“*The munificent ... ghastly*” (Smiles, p. 70)
“social conscience” (John Henry Kirby: Founder...)
“Long after ... shelter” (Lasswell, p. 172; Texas House of Representatives, p. 32)
“I would ... great wealth” “I would ... of industry” (quoted in Kilman 1937)

Capitalism à la Carte

“That government ... least” (Lasswell, p. 118)
“We’ve got to ... people” (Kirby, quoted in Rickey, p. 12B)
“was always ... rights” (Lasswell, p. 178)
supporter of Prohibition (Lasswell, p. 184)
pro-state oil conservation policy (Kirby, letter to F. Kirby, August 25, 1931,)
“I am ... reading” (Kirby, quoted in McNealy)
“unshakeable faith” (Lasswell, p. 116)
3,000 volumes (Phelan)
Kirby’s overoptimism and paternalism (Rickey, p. 12B)

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