

THE DEFEAT OF PROHIBITION.

How the Bankers and Business Men's Association Accomplished It.

THE FUNDS AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION.

Hon. E. Rosewater's Testimony in the gubernatorial contest—Some Interesting Campaign History Made Public.

The following is a continuation of Hon. E. Rosewater's testimony in the gubernatorial contest that has been in progress during the past week. A part of Mr. Rosewater's testimony has been published, in which he detailed the causes leading up to the organization of the state Business Men's and Bankers' association, and that organization's plan of campaign. The following is a continuation of the stenographic report:

Q.—Then your committee used in Omaha to assist you in procuring foreigners to be naturalized the different organizations that you have named? The Personal Rights league, the Danish society, Bohemian society and any others besides these? A.—No, these fellows used to come around and wanted us to help them pay their bills, and I said we would pay it. Our organization was so arranged, as I stated before, that we paid very little attention in Omaha to that line of work.

Q.—Is it not true that at one of the meetings of your committee this question was discussed and it was agreed that the executive committee of the association would use every means in their power to secure this not only in Douglas county, but throughout the state? A.—No, that I don't remember. I don't remember that we agreed to do that. We agreed to do this, and that is all that we agreed to do. We decided that inasmuch as there were so many societies, and some of them didn't have the money, and that many of those who were to be naturalized were workmen, and about all they could do would be to give their time to go for the naturalization papers, we thought we would arrange to relieve them from the expense of the papers.

Q.—From whom did that request come to your committee? A.—I can't give you an idea. For instance, the Danish society would send a couple or three men to call on me personally and say: "Give us a request for such a number of names, and we will make a request for three or four. For instance, the editor of the Bohemian paper called on me and so did Mr. Kaspar." A.—Who was Mr. Kaspar acting for? A.—For the Bohemians and on his own account. There were any number of others. As I know Mr. Kaspar and I knew he was all right and on general principles I might recognize him the same as a member of a society. The editor of the Bohemian paper and I know I simply gave him such an order as the others.

Q.—Then who called upon you from the Personal Rights league? A.—Sometimes we had Mr. Lund, sometimes Mr. Heilmold, or five or six. I think Mr. John Baumer was one.

Q.—What official position did Mr. Heilmold hold? A.—He was the president of the state league.

Q.—And what position did Mr. Lund hold? A.—I really don't know. He was one of the officers, but I never inquired what his position was.

Q.—And they approached your committee, or approached you to see if your committee would not pay for the papers of their members who were naturalized? A.—Yes, this was one of the arrangements of their association. We had a general agreement with their association, and that was that they should work in their field and we in our field. We paid the expenses on condition that they would solicit subscriptions among our business people and capitalists. We furnished them means to carry on their part of that.

Q.—That is the Bankers' and Business Men's association and your committee or association agreed to furnish the Personal Rights league money to carry their part of the work provided they would not solicit subscriptions from business men in Omaha? A.—That was the understanding, and we did so. The expense was to be met by printing to do, translating in German and other languages, etc., and they had something like seven or eight traveling men.

Q.—You may state how the organization furnished to the Personal Rights league, if you know? A.—Something over \$4,000.

Q.—In a lump or from time to time. A.—From time to time just as they made requisitions. They presented the names of the parties whom they were employing and the purposes for which they were to employ the money in a general way. Of course the employment of these parties was left to them.

Q.—Do you know whether or not your committee or your organization to the Personal Rights league represented the amount of money used in this campaign? A.—I don't know. I think that all they had at the very outside was about \$5,000 during the campaign.

Q.—And this money was paid I presume by the treasurer of the Bankers' and Business Men's association, upon properly certified vouchers to the order of the Personal Rights league? A.—These things usually went through three or four hands, and in the course of time were paid upon vouchers. They paid out their own money. Their treasurer, I presume, got all the money. I don't think we made any vouchers to them. I think they would make a requisition for a certain amount to be used for a certain purpose, and the money was paid over to their treasurer.

Q.—And this requisition would be in the hands of what officer? A.—I don't know. I don't know whether it was the treasurer or the committee or treasurer direct.

Q.—Either the finance committee or the treasurer would have all those papers? A.—Mr. Q.—And would the treasurer's books show the disbursements through that channel? A.—Well, I never saw either the subscription list or the treasurer's books, because I never had anything to do with the financial matters.

Q.—Was there any partnership in the organization? A.—There was no partnership in the organization. It was composed of men of all parties, and it was understood from the start that there was no work to be done or effort made by any candidate. The contract with Mr. Roggen was that if he was found at any time during the progress of the campaign favoring any candidate, he was to be dismissed after five days' notice, and in our arrangement with the Personal Rights league it was as clearly understood and agreed that they were to keep politics so far as candidates were concerned. At one time one of the organizers made a speech in the country, a democratic speech, and I protested against it, and he was dismissed, because it was a violation of our understanding. We were accused by the republicans of working for Boyd and by the democrats of working for Richards, but as a matter of fact no part of the organization in any manner, shape or form was so used.

Q.—You say Mr. Rosewater called your committee furnished between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to the Personal Rights league? A.—Yes, sir. Right league on the 15th day of October as a body, endorsed Mr. Boyd for governor? A.—I don't know. In the first place this was all paid them before the 15th of October. The action they took after that was reported here, and I remonstrated with Mr. Heilmold and told him that they had made a great blunder in taking that step. They had sent out, as I understood, certain questions. Mr. Richards told me himself the questions they sent him, and they were with respect to the question of statutory prohibition, and also on the school question. Now, it was probable that Mr. Boyd had answered these questions affirmatively and the others had not. That was not really the Personal Rights league, but only some of the members and some of the officers took a stand in favor of Boyd.

Q.—Is it not true that at least one representative from each branch in the state was present there? A.—I don't know, for I don't know enough about their names to say.

Q.—What portion of this \$4,000 or \$5,000 was paid to the Personal Rights league after the 15th of October? A.—Probably not \$500.

Q.—Are you sure upon that point? A.—Yes, I am sure of it, because the bulk of what they received was all paid in long before that time, because they made a very early requisition on us, something like in early August. They put their men into the

field early, and at one time we were not very flush, and they had to stop their men as well as we did ours.

Q.—What was this for? A.—For their men in the field, and for printing circulars and all sorts of papers.

Q.—You may state whether or not after the action of the state league in favor of Boyd took an official action toward dividing the Bankers' and Business Men's organization to withdraw their support? A.—I have taken no other action than the personal action that I have taken, and a grand bargain and so told Mr. Heilmold.

Q.—Was Mr. Heilmold a member of the Bankers' and Business Men's association? A.—No, he was president of the Personal Rights league.

Q.—Then you didn't speak to any person who belonged to the Bankers' and Business Men's association on that question? A.—There was nothing further to do. They had acted and I took no other steps.

Q.—Did you continue to affiliate as an organization with the Personal Rights league after that time? A.—We had just such relations as would be a mere understanding. I don't think we had any other relations. Our agreements were made and requisitions had been made. I think the bulk of the business was done.

Q.—Is it not true that the entire bill of Mr. Moore's for naturalization papers was all paid at that time? A.—Yes, but that had nothing to do with the Personal Rights league. You see these papers had to be taken out at least thirty days before the election, and they must have been done by October 4, so that what agreements were made and requisitions made in August or early in September.

Q.—Do you know what proportion of these 2,500 foreigners were procured to be naturalized by the Personal Rights league? A.—A very small proportion. I should say not one-fourth, because the societies did a great deal and then we had some men specially working in that line.

Q.—I will ask you if it is not true that members of the Bohemian and Danish societies did not belong to the Personal Rights league? A.—I don't know. I never belonged to any of them, and consequently I could not tell.

Q.—Are you in a position to say that such is the case? A.—I am not, because I do not know anything about it.

Q.—Then, so far as you know, those men that didn't have the money and that were acting for the Personal Rights league? A.—They may have been, but if there had been arrangements made for them and for their naturalization papers, we thought we would arrange to relieve them from the expense of the papers.

Q.—When you say \$4,000 or \$5,000 was furnished by the Bankers' and Business Men's association, you may state whether or not that is in addition to the amount paid to Mr. Moore's? A.—Yes, that is entirely independent of what we paid to Mr. Moore's. We kept track of the money, and we know whom the papers were gotten out by. We paid for the whole of them, and this other money was independent.

Q.—These foreigners, as you have stated, were procured for the sole and only purpose of voting against prohibition? A.—That was the only idea.

Q.—You may state who was regarded as the distinctive candidate of the anti-prohibitionists in the city of Omaha? A.—Candidates for governor.

Q.—Yes, sir. A.—Mr. Boyd, the well known candidate of the democratic party, had announced himself against prohibition, and he had some friends in the city. He was an anti-prohibitionist. We had no candidate.

Q.—You may state how the candidacy of Mr. Powers and Mr. Richards was regarded by the people of Omaha. A.—Mr. Powers' candidacy was not regarded as any very important factor by our people.

Q.—His attitude was not discussed in Omaha very much, and while he was known to be opposed to prohibition, he had not written a letter over his own signature to the New York Voice that he was for the amendment. Although we had a general agreement with their association, and that was that they should work in their field and we in our field. We paid the expenses on condition that they would solicit subscriptions among our business people and capitalists. We furnished them means to carry on their part of that.

Q.—That is the Bankers' and Business Men's association and your committee or association agreed to furnish the Personal Rights league money to carry their part of the work provided they would not solicit subscriptions from business men in Omaha? A.—That was the understanding, and we did so. The expense was to be met by printing to do, translating in German and other languages, etc., and they had something like seven or eight traveling men.

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Q.—What portion of this \$4,000 or \$5,000 was paid to the Personal Rights league after the 15th of October? A.—Probably not \$500.

Q.—Are you sure upon that point? A.—Yes, I am sure of it, because the bulk of what they received was all paid in long before that time, because they made a very early requisition on us, something like in early August. They put their men into the

prohibition question? A.—Yes, because we thought it best not to get into a wrangle in the convention.

Q.—Your opinion if it was better for you to take a square stand on that which did you not insert a plank to that effect in the platform? A.—Simply because we did not want to commit our candidates on that question. We probably had some candidates that were out and out prohibitionists, but most of the candidates were not pronounced on this issue. They had adopted a plank, and they would go back on it, and all we could do was to wait the result of the election. Mr. Richards did not have to put a plaid on his mouth on this question of statutory prohibition. He could have talked just as freely upon this question as upon others. If anyone had asked him if he would approve a law making the rate of interest ten per cent, would he do it? A.—I was not a member, but I will say that I don't believe that any one will testify that he was true.

Q.—I will ask you to look at this paper and state what it is? A.—It is a blank of the Bankers' and Business Men's association. It is not a blank, it is simply a printed circular.

Q.—Sent out by the Bankers' and Business Men's association? A.—It is signed by Mr. Heilmold, chairman of the business men's association. It was sent out by them or not. Some one else might have got it one too.

Q.—You may state whether or not the Bankers' and Business Men's association sent out any such document as that to any person in the city of Omaha? A.—I don't know. They didn't send any to me. I had no means of knowing of the action of the finance department. This whole business of money was left in the hands of the finance committee, and I don't know what they did.

Q.—Do you know whether a letter like this was sent out? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do you state that you do not know whether or not it makes any assessments or not? A.—I state that I do not know.

Q.—You stated that towards the latter end of the campaign they became more urgent in their efforts to raise money, and they expressed an urgency expressed? A.—I don't know. They had a profitable way of expressing it.

Q.—What did they do? A.—They invited to contribute to the fund, and they organized themselves into special committees and canvassed the town and asked individuals or firms to contribute. They may have had some success in that way.

Q.—Do you know whether or not any statement was made by Mr. Charles A. Coe or any person acting for him to certain business men, that they did not contribute to the extent of the amount named by the committee that there was a list known as the black list, and that their names would be placed on that list, and that if they did not contribute, they would be on that list, and I would say that he never said it, and I will bet on it.

Q.—Would you say positively that neither he nor anybody acting for him ever made such a threat as that to any business man in the city of Omaha? A.—I know there was no black list. I know there was no list of names. I was chairman of the executive committee of the association, and I know that.

Q.—And did you or your committee meet with the finance committee of that association? A.—With some of their members, but not with the committee. They had some meetings of the finance committee.

Q.—Then how did you know the finance committee list of that kind? A.—I certainly would have talked with me about it if they had had one.

Q.—What other means besides these that you mentioned, did they use to raise money? A.—I never heard of any other.

Q.—Do you mean to be understood that all the money came from the city of Omaha? A.—I know of one other place where there was some other money sent. There was \$100 came from Lincoln from Mr. Mosnier, and I turned it over to the association.

Q.—That is the only money that came from your direct? A.—All that I know of from any place.

Q.—Do you mean to say that the whisky trust of Peoria never furnished any money? A.—I don't know. I don't know whether or not the Bankers' and Business Men's association was furnished to your association during the campaign. I don't know whether or not there was any money sent to the Personal Rights league from Peoria to carry on the campaign? A.—They certainly did not carry on the campaign with it.

Q.—I will repeat the question. Is it not a fact that the Bankers' and Business Men's association did make repeated efforts to get financial assistance from the whisky trust of Peoria to carry on the campaign? A.—They certainly did not carry on the campaign with it.

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defeat of prohibition, that there was a few like those during the war—a few "copper heads."

Q.—Have you any objection to naming some of those copperheads? A.—I could name some of them.

Q.—Do you know whether any of those copperheads were responsible for prohibition? A.—I don't know anything about that.

Q.—Now, you state that towards the latter end of the campaign they became more urgent in their efforts to raise money, and they expressed an urgency expressed? A.—I don't know. They had a profitable way of expressing it.

Q.—What did they do? A.—They invited to contribute to the fund, and they organized themselves into special committees and canvassed the town and asked individuals or firms to contribute. They may have had some success in that way.

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Q.—And did you or your committee meet with the finance committee of that association? A.—With some of their members, but not with the committee. They had some meetings of the finance committee.

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