

# THE COURIER

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**OBSERVATIONS,**

**A Senatorial Candidate.**

Recently a small minority of the Union Veterans' Republican club, less than twenty out of a membership of more than five hundred, voted for a resolution endorsing the senatorial candidacy of D. E. Thompson. Immediately the resolution was published, publication being the sole object of its adoption. The resolution embodies this language, "Having full confidence in the ability, integrity and loyalty, both to party and to country, of Hon. D. E. Thompson of this city, firmly believing that with his splendid business ability, tenacity of purpose and character," etc. So, out of something more than five hundred "grizzled veterans" less than twenty could be found who were willing to assert their confidence in the "integrity and loyalty, both to party and country," of D. E. Thompson, or who were willing to hazard their own reputations and the esteem of their fellow men by an endorsement of the "splendid character" of this senatorial candidate. Never, even when wearing the blue upon the field of battle.

"And death shots falling thick and fast  
As lightning from the mountain cloud,"

did the president and secretary of the Union Veterans Republican Club exhibit more nerve than when they permitted that resolution of endorsement to be placed in type and published to the world with their names thereto appended. What is there in the personal history of D. E. Thompson that convinces these men of his loyalty either to party or to country? Judge M. L. Hayward was a soldier. He proved his loyalty not only to his country but his patriotism as well when he risked his life in company with the republicans on the field. Who ever questioned his loyalty to the republican party?

ago both he and D. E. Thompson were senatorial candidates; both submitted their candidacy to the republican caucus which selected as its candidate the soldier, the jurist, the republican, the courteous gentleman. When that was done what did D. E. Thompson do? Let another answer.

**(Mr. Allen's Affidavit.)**

The state of Nebraska, Lancaster county, ss. Thomas S. Allen being duly sworn says that on the day that Hon. M. L. Hayward was elected to the United States senate, to-wit: day of March, 1899, Lee Herdman had an agreement in his possession that this affiant saw, which said agreement was in the handwriting of said Herdman, and was signed by D. E. Thompson, that affiant made a copy of said agreement, which he now has; that said copy is as follows, to-wit:

"I, D. E. Thompson, pledge the fusion members of the Nebraska legislature my solemn word of honor that if by their votes I am elected to the United States senate I will do as follows:

- "First—I will oppose the policy of imperialism and entangling alliances with any nation.
- "Second—I will oppose any increase in the regular army.
- "Third—I will oppose the retirement of greenbacks and issuing of currency by banks, and will favor an increased use of silver money.
- "Fourth—I will oppose government by injunction, and favor an income tax.
- "Fifth—If elected I will remain out of republican caucuses.

**"D. E. THOMPSON."**

Further, affiant says that he is acquainted with the handwriting of Lee Herdman and the signature of D. E. Thompson, and that said paper or contract was in the handwriting of said Herdman and was signed by D. E. Thompson in his own handwriting, with a purple indelible pencil; that said Lee Herdman has in addition thereto told this affiant several times that he himself prepared said agreement; that on the same day of the election of Hon. M. L. Hayward the said Herdman came to affiant's office and showed affiant the agreement aforesaid, and said that he was on the way to D. E. Thompson's office to return to him said agreement in accordance with an arrangement that he had with Mr. Thompson at the time the agreement was signed and delivered, to the effect that if the plan to make Mr. Thompson senator was unsuccessful the agreement should be returned to said Thompson; that this affiant has repeatedly urged and requested Mr. Herdman to make a statement to the effect that he prepared said agreement, and that Mr. Thompson signed it, and that said agreement was afterwards returned to Mr. Thompson in pursuance of an arrangement made with him at the time the said contract was signed by Mr. Thompson and delivered to Mr. Herdman; but that said Herdman has refused to make such a statement, because of his arrangement with Mr. Thompson to say nothing about the plan, and return the agreement in the event that negotiations to elect said Thompson to the United States senate failed.

**T. S. ALLEN.**

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 25th day of October, A. D. 1900

[SEAL.] M. L. EASTERDAY,  
Notary Public.

But Mr. Allen is not the only man who states under oath that he saw the written evidence of D. E. Thompson's offer to betray the party; read what William F. Schwind says,

**Mr. Schwind's Affidavit.**

State of Nebraska, Lancaster county, ss. William F. Schwind, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says that during the last session of the Nebraska legislature, on the morning after the republican caucus had voted to make M. L. Hayward United States senator, he met Lee Herdman in the lobby of the state capitol and spoke to said Herdman about the agreement of the republican caucus upon a candidate. Herdman said it might yet be possible to defeat the republican caucus nominee, and that D. E. Thompson had made a proposition to secure the fusion vote, and with a portion of the republican members whose votes could be secured for said Thompson, against the caucus nominee, have himself elected senator. Herdman thereupon drew from his pocket and showed to this affiant a written paper.

This affiant further says that he is familiar with Mr. Thompson's signature and that he knows the handwriting of Lee Herdman and that said paper was in the handwriting of Lee Herdman and bore the signature of D. E. Thompson. Said paper was a proposition on the part of said Thompson that if he was elected to the United States senate by the aid of fusion votes he would oppose the policy of imperialism; would oppose any increase in the regular army; that he would oppose the retirement of the greenback and the issuing of currency by banks, and favor the increased use of silver as money; that he would be in favor of an income tax and would oppose government by injunction; also that if elected he would remain out of republican caucuses.

Affiant further says that he asked Herdman to let him take said paper, but Herdman refused to do so, saying he had agreed to not let the instrument get away from him, that it was to be shown to the fusion members of the legislature, and in case the deal could not be consummated he was to return the paper to said D. E. Thompson. Mr. Herdman has since told affiant that he carried out his promise to Mr. Thompson and returned the paper to him.

**WILLIAM F. SCHWIND.**

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 26th day of October, 1900.

[SEAL.] L. M. TROUP,  
Notary Public.  
Not to Messrs. Allen and Schwind alone was this proof of Mr. Thompson's loyalty (?) to the party exhibited; Mr. E. E. Hairgrove, a prominent republican of Clay county, had sight of that precious document; read his sworn statement.

**Mr. Hairgrove's Affidavit.**

State of Nebraska, Lancaster county, ss. I, E. E. Hairgrove, being first duly sworn, depose and say that I am a resident of Sutton, Clay county, Nebraska, and have been a resident of said county and city for the twelve years last past. That I am personally acquainted with D. E. Thompson of Lancaster county Nebraska, having known him for about five years. I further state that during the early part of 1899, I was in Lancaster county, taking a part in the campaign for the election of United States senator to succeed Hon. W. V. Allen.

I further state that on the morning of the day on which Hon. M. L. Hayward was elected, in the Lincoln hotel

I had a conversation with one Benton Maret, which said conversation was in substance as follows:

Mr. Maret asked me how I would like D. E. Thompson for United States senator. I replied: "I do not like him for United States senator or anything else," to which he replied: "D. E. Thompson will be elected this morning. The fusion members of the legislature are going to vote for him and that together with the Lancaster delegation will give him a sufficient number of votes to be elected United States senator."

I stated to him that he knew that was not true, or words to that effect, to which he replied by taking from his pocket two papers, one of which purported to be an agreement by the fusion members of the legislature to vote for D. E. Thompson for United States senator, under certain conditions. This paper purported to be signed by the members of the legislature, as to whether it was their signature or not I am unable to say, but to the best of my knowledge it was.

The other agreement was signed by Mr. D. E. Thompson. I am well acquainted with the signature of D. E. Thompson and know that the signature to that paper was the signature of D. E. Thompson. This paper signed by Mr. Thompson in substance promised that if he was elected by the fusion members of the legislature that he would oppose the policy of imperialism and entangling alliances with other nations; that he would oppose any increase in the regular army, and that he would oppose the retiring of greenbacks. My recollection also is of the paper signed by Mr. D. E. Thompson that he promised and agreed to keep out of republican caucuses if elected to the United States senate.

Mr. Maret in conversation with me at that time informed me that the fusionists and the Lancaster delegation had been holding a conference nearly all night and that the Lancaster delegation would not be in representative hall at the time of the commencement of the calling of the roll on vote for United States senator and that the fusion members would vote for D. E. Thompson, and Mr. Maret at that time offered to bet me fifty dollars or any amount that I should name, that D. E. Thompson would be elected.

I further state that after Senator Hayward was elected, in a conversation with Mr. Maret he informed me that had it not been for one member of the Lancaster delegation, and also one fusion member, D. E. Thompson would have been elected. (Signed) E. E. HAIRGROVE.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 5th day of June, 1900.

[SEAL.] C. C. MARLAY,  
Notary Public.

But these sworn statements furnish not all nor yet the most convincing proof of the proposed betrayal of the party by this candidate for senatorial honors. Before the affidavits were made a reputable and responsible citizen of Lincoln, Mr. F. M. Hall, publicly charged that the morning after the caucus nominated Judge Hayward, "Mr. Thompson was found in the camp of the enemy, plotting and conspiring for the overthrow of the republican party; that he in substance agreed to 'abandon the principles of the republican party and adopt those of the populist and democratic parties.'" This charge published in a newspaper elicited from Thompson a denial, and immediately Mr. Hall challenged him to submit