

Will Not Debate Governor Mickey afraid to have the extravagance of his admin- istration made plain.

FIGURES FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS

Show great increase in the current expenses of every State department and State Institution, making increased taxation necessary.

Early in the present political campaign Governor Mickey was challenged to meet George W. Berge, fusion candidate for governor, in a joint debate that the state issues might be discussed. After a long wait Governor Mickey declined to appear before the public, evading the issues and refusing to discuss the extravagant administration of the republicans of Nebraska.

In order that the public may know more fully the conditions in the state, so far as they relate to the affairs of state, Chairman Allen of the democratic and Weber of the populist state committees, have prepared an open letter, addressed to Governor Mickey. The letter follows:

Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 21.—Hon. John H. Mickey, Lincoln, Neb.—Dear Sir: We are in receipt of your letter of the 18th inst., in reply to our letter in which we suggested a joint debate between yourself and Hon. George W. Berge. We regret very much that you declined the challenge for a joint debate, and in place of a manly acceptance you have sent to us and published a letter which for deception has no parallel in the political history of Nebraska. We again invite you to meet Mr. Berge in a joint debate on state issues at Omaha or at Lincoln, or at both places. In this way the speeches would naturally be published in the daily press and would reach the people of Nebraska. Deception and evasion may easily find place in a publication and they do find place in your letter. But on a public platform, where you would be face to face with Mr. Berge, the truth could be made plain.

The reason why you have declined this challenge is because you have concealed the part of the truth. You know that even your most rabid partisans would desert you in disgust if the real conditions existing in this state were made known to them.

In your letter you try to make out that the state indebtedness has only increased \$151,000 since the fusion administration went out of power. That statement is incorrect and you certainly knew it was incorrect when you wrote it. If you will meet Mr. Berge in joint debate we will prove to the people not only the inaccuracy of the statement, but that you must have known that it was inaccurate at the time you published it. You arrive at these figures by a slight-of-hand performance that would do credit to a juggler. You charge the fusion administration with alleged unpaid claims to the amount of \$182,000. Of course some unpaid claims are always left over from one administration to another. In the transaction of the state's business it cannot be otherwise. But you conceal the fact that the fusion administration paid \$30,631.46 of claims left over by the former republican administration. You did not include these claims left over by the republican administration in your statement of the debt of the state when the fusionists went into power. You gave the warrant of indebtedness

ture in 1897:

Wing for the Norfolk asylum	\$ 25,000
Wing for Hastings asylum	30,000
Land for Hastings asylum	6,000
Dormitory state normal school	20,000
Peru	30,000
Wing for state university	30,000
Trans-Mississippi Exposition	100,000
Total	\$211,000

Here are the unusual appropriations for 1899:

At Hastings asylum	\$ 30,000
Engine house at same place	15,000
Wing and heating apparatus at Lincoln asylum	40,000
Well and pump house, Lincoln	5,000
Engine industrial school, Milford	750
Blind institute, Nebraska City	6,000
Engine house, deaf and dumb institute	7,700
School building deaf and dumb institute	25,000
Building and furnishing at the feeble-minded institute, Beatrice	48,500
Sickness expenses First and Third Nebraska	2,000
Expense returning the First Nebraska regiment	20,000
Vault for national guard	1,000
Stand pipe, normal school	5,000
Improvements on hospital soldiers and sailors' home, Grand Island	12,500
Site soldiers and sailors' home, Milford	13,500
Buildings and improvements state university	93,500
Total appropriations 1899	\$325,450

Add to these unusual appropriations for 1897

Total	\$211,000
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But, governor, there are not the only misleading statements in your letter. You seek to make the people believe by half truth and half falsehood that extraordinary expenditures were made under your administration to the amount of \$605,000. Your article adroitly leads the reader to believe that this money has been expended and that is one reason why the debt has been increased. That statement you likewise knew to be wrong when you wrote it. You included in this \$605,000 the sum of \$50,000 for the normal school at Kearney, when you knew or could have known that only \$367.51 of it had been spent. You knew that the corner stone of the building was laid only Tuesday of this week and you knew that when that building was completed the state's debt would be increased \$49,632.48 more. But in your usual deceptive way and with a pretense of fairness and truth you wanted the people to believe that the building of the Kearney school helped to account for the state's enormously increased debt. You included in your statement \$100,000 for the insane asylum at Norfolk, when you well knew that warrants had been drawn for only \$60,535.35 of that amount and that the remaining \$39,464.65 is still to be paid and added to the state's debt. We mention these larger matters and pass by the minor statements of a similar character, but when the balance of the appropriations are put into warrants the state debt will be increased nearly \$185,000 more.

But, governor, while you did not say it directly, the letter is plainly intended to make the people believe that no extraordinary expenditures occurred during the fusion administration. Governor, the session laws of 1897 and the session laws of 1899 both show the truth in regard to this matter. We need not state what these extraordinary expenditures were for your enlightenment, because you know all about them when you issued your misleading letter. But we do state it for the information of the people of Nebraska.

Here are the extraordinary appropriations made by the fusion legisla-

into power the taxes were much less than today, and yet we reduced the debt largely.

How happens it, governor, that notwithstanding an increase of their taxes, which is driving the people to desperation, your administration has made a tremendous increase in the state debt and the state is going deeper in debt all the time?

We levied lower taxes than you have and still we paid off hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt. You have levied much higher taxes than we did and still you are increasing and piling up the state debt. These plain, truthful facts, governor, explain why it is that you refuse to meet Mr. Berge in joint debate. In a joint debate the people would learn the truth and hypocrisy and cant would be put to rout.

But the point that we want to impress as to the railroad revenue law is that it is not reducing the state debt; that the high taxes which are burdening the people are all being eaten up by your administration and that, notwithstanding all this, the state is plunging deeper and deeper in debt. The appropriation bills show the increase in the expense of running your office, of running the auditor's office, of running the banking department, of running the attorney general's office, of running the land commissioner's office, and so on, but the heaviest increase of all is in running the state institutions. Without your defeat we cannot get into these institutions to tell the people the whole truth. But the enormous increase in the expenses of running these institutions plainly shows that graft is being worked in all of them. Of necessity grafters are running these institutions or the expense could not be what it is. When we got into office and before the books were found that the state's money had been squandered and stolen; we found that heifers weighing 500 to 600 pounds each had been bought and put on the state books and marked as steers and oxen weighing 1,000 and 1,500 pounds each. We found that it took more coal to keep some of the state institutions warm in July under the rule of grafters than it took to keep them warm in January under our administration.

The administrations before the fusionists were full of grafters and yet, governor, the expense of running them under these grafters was much less than running them since you have been governor. The only way that this can be accounted for is on the theory that in your administration there are more grafters and worse grafters than in the worst days of any previous administration. The whole truth will never be known unless you meet Mr. Berge in joint debate. But you know, governor, that a joint debate would fairly and honestly put the people of Nebraska in possession of all the facts concerning your administration of affairs and will drive you from power and uncover the dealings of the grafters and expose them to the public. Is that why you decline to debate? Yours truly,

T. S. ALLEN,
Chairman Democratic State Committee.
B. R. B. WEBER,
Chairman People's Independent State Committee.

The Brady Bill

It will be recalled that at the last session of the legislature a bill was introduced providing for a reasonable opportunity for the shipment of grain within the state of Nebraska. This bill was known as the Brady bill. Its enactment was unanimously demanded by the farmers of the state, but the railroads were opposed to it. Its provisions were full, explicit and fair. It would have afforded protection to all shippers of grain. It would have guaranteed against unjust discriminations. But it was too just to secure the support of the railroads that dominated that legislature.

In place of this Brady bill was brought forth a substitute that, its sponsors claimed, was "just as good" as the Brady bill. Like all "just as good" propositions, it should have been closely analyzed. It was abortive. It was of little if any value to the general shippers of grain. It contained no provisions that could not have been accomplished just as well under the common law, and saved the legislature the trouble of passing it. But the railroads wanted it enacted, and as the railroads dominated that legislative body, the Ramsey bill was substituted for the Brady bill.

There is every hope that Mr. Brady will again return to the state legislature this year. It is safe to say that the fight for the Brady bill will then be renewed, since the railroads of the state, just as was expected, have evaded the Ramsey law. That was the design of the railroads. It was not contemplated by them that any law should be enacted that could stand. So they attack the constitutionality of their own law. This will afford the friends of the Brady bill an opportunity to make another fight for their measure. For the information of all who desire to know something of the merits of the Brady bill, a copy of it follows:

A BILL

For an act to require railroad companies and common carriers in the state of Nebraska to erect and maintain a state track or switch extending a reasonable length. The outer edge of which shall be at least within four feet of the outer edge of the right-of-way to any elevator or elevators erected by any firm, corporation, association, person or persons for the purpose of buying, storing and shipping grain at any station within this state, and providing for a penalty for the violation thereof.

Introduced by Brady of Boone. Read the first time Jan. 22, 1903.

Section 1. That any railroad company operating as a common carrier within the state shall, when requested in writing by the owners or operators of any elevator at any station within this state through which any railroad is operated, erect and maintain a side track of suitable length to approach as near as four feet of the outer edge of the right-of-way when necessary, and in all cases to approach as near as may be necessary to approach any elevator that may be erected adjacent to their right-of-way for the purpose of loading grain into

cars from said elevator.

Sec. 2. That any railroad company operating as a common carrier within the state of Nebraska which shall fail and refuse to comply with the provisions of this act for the space of sixty days after the request in writing, as above mentioned, shall forfeit and pay to the state of Nebraska the sum of \$1,000 to be collected in a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction.

The Ramsey law, on the other hand, is an evasive law. It is full of holes. It was purposely designed for attack should any serious attempt be made to enforce even its feeble provisions. The chief ground for attack by the railroads seems to be based upon the claim that its title does not fully set forth the purposes of the bill. An examination of the title and the bill does not bear out this statement of the roads, but it is this claim upon which they expect to have the bill declared unconstitutional. There is nothing strictly specific about it. If it were, its benefits would long ago have been realized. It places a minimum limitation upon the cost of elevators. That is, the elevator must cost not less than three thousand dollars, and must be built at the track of the road. The Brady bill, on the other hand, does not make this limitation, and only stipulates that the elevator must be built adjacent to the right-of-way. Further

the Ramsey law provides no penalty for even a violation of that law, which in itself practically nullifies its force, for no law can be considered effective, if it provides no penalty for its violation. Such a law is a nullity in itself, for without penalties no law can be enforced against the wish of any party desiring to violate it.

The country boy may envy the city boy, but that's because the country boy doesn't know when he is well off. The country lad hikes off to bed in a cold room. He shucks his garments in a jiffy, pites in under the thick comforters, and is soon sleeping like a log. In the morning, when he is called, he bounces into his clothes at a pace that makes Dan Patch look like six lead nickels, and by the time he gets down to the kitchen fire his blood is tingling, his eyes are bright, and he feels as fit as a fiddle. Of course he longs for the enervating atmosphere of the heated bedroom—but that's because he don't know.

The modern furnace has knocked a lot of romance out of life. What fun is there in sitting in front of a register? Where's the romance in loitering around in a room minus the rosy glow of the gasburner or the dancing light of the fireplace? Sometimes we wonder how on earth a fellow ever can arouse enough romance in his heart to propose to a girl in a steam or hot air heated room.

MICKEY'S DECEPTION

A Sample of His Juggling With Figures To Deceive
The Taxpayers of Nebraska.

In his efforts to counteract the public indignation against the enormous and unwarranted increase in the State's debt Governor Mickey has resorted to deception that would disgrace the most unscrupulous ward politician. There is a common law maxim as old as jurisprudence itself "Falsus in uno, Falsus in Omnibus" (false in one thing, false in everything). It applies with particular fitness to our "honored citizen" Hon. John H. Mickey. Time and space will not permit the exposure of all of his fraud and deception during this campaign. The Independent will cite one example that is a fair illustration of the governor's fraudulent and hypocritical methods. Here it is:

In a letter given to the press of the State for publication in explanation of the increase in the State's debt Governor Mickey stated that it was due to enormous expenditures for permanent improvements and cited the following list of expenditures:

New normal school at Kearney	\$50,000.00
Building at state fair grounds	3,000.00
New chapel building at Peru	43,500.00
Additional land at Hastings asylum	15,000.00
Insane hospital at Norfolk	100,000.00
Hospital at Lincoln, building barn	5,000.00
Soldiers and sailors Home, Grand Island, erection of store building, quartermaster building, laundry building, etc.	15,000.00
Soldiers' and sailors' home, Milford, new hospital	20,000.00
Institute for feeble minded youth, cold storage plant	2,500.00
Institute for feeble minded youth, new kitchen	1,000.00
Deaf and dumb institute, Omaha, waterworks construction	500.00
Board of public lands and buildings, street paving adjoining capitol	10,000.00
Penitentiary building, furnishing same, and erecting 240 steel cells, and sewerage	126,563.00
Soldiers' and sailors' home, Milford, power house, etc.	13,500.00
Total	\$411,563.00

It is true that the legislature authorized the appropriations as listed in the governor's table above, but before the governor can truthfully say that those expenditures are responsible for the state's debt he must show that the buildings and improvements have been made and warrants issued in payment. It is in this that the governor practices his deceit. An investigation of the records shows that the permanent improvements claimed by the governor have not been made, and that when they are made, and warrants issued in payment, the state's debt will be still further increased by that amount. When the Kearney normal school building is paid for by warrants issued the state will be nearly \$50,000 deeper in debt. When the paving around the capitol grounds is paid for the state will be "\$10,000 deeper in debt."

The following table shows the amount actually expended for improvements listed in the governor's table above.

New normal school at Kearney	Expended \$ 367.51
Building at state fair grounds	2,944.20
New chapel building at Peru	11,768.39
Additional land at Hastings Asylum	10,008.59
Insane hospital at Norfolk	60,535.35
Soldiers' and Sailors' home, Grand Island, erection of store building, quartermaster's building, laundry building, etc.	18.25
Soldiers' and Sailors' home, Milford, new hospital	16,317.00
Institute for feeble minded youth, cold storage plant	2,500.00
Institute for feeble minded youth, new kitchen	11.00
Deaf and dumb institute, Omaha, water works construction	172.78
Board of public lands and buildings, street paving adjoining capitol	.00
Penitentiary building, furnishing same and erecting 240 steel cells, and sewerage	120,151.57
Soldiers' and Sailors' home, power house, etc.	13,302.21
Total	\$238,096.76

It will therefore appear to every intelligent citizen that the chief executive of the great State of Nebraska has falsely claimed to have expended \$411,563.00 for permanent improvements when in truth he had only expended \$238,096.76. Do you regard such a man worthy of your support for a second term in the governor's chair?

Furthermore the governor in his letter to the press with intent to deceive deliberately withheld the fact that the fusionists during their control of the State's affairs made as many permanent improvements as the last republican legislature provided for. The exact list giving the names and nature of the improvements together with the amount appropriated in payment thereof will be found in the letter from chairman Allen and chairman Weber to Governor Mickey, published in another column of this issue.

Again The Independent arraigns Governor Mickey before the bar of public opinion under the common law maxim "falsus in uno falsus in omnibus", false in one thing, false in everything.

The Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

117 TONS OF SILVER

What it Costs to Run the State of Nebraska Two Years Under
Republican Rule. Unprecedented Waste of
the People's Money.

In order that the readers of The Independent may have a clear conception of the enormous sum of money that is required to carry on the state's business under the present extravagant administration, we have made a few interesting computations:

Imagine if you can, all of the people resident within the great state of Nebraska, men, women and children of every class and description standing in line one behind the other, filing past the state treasury in Lincoln, each to contribute in cash, their pro-rata share for state expenses. Each would be required to toss into that bottomless pit the sum of **Three Dollars and Seventy-four Cents (\$3.74)**. A total of eighteen dollars and seventy cents (\$18.70) for every average family of five members in the state. It is almost impossible to conceive of such an enormous sum. The figures are too large for comprehension by the ordinary mind. The appropriations by the last legislature aggregated three million seven hundred and forty thousand, two hundred and eighty dollars and seventy cents [\$3,740,280.70]. If this sum was counted out in silver dollars it would weigh two hundred and thirty-three thousand, seven hundred and sixty-seven [233,767] pounds. Almost **One hundred and seventeen tons of silver**.

The principal part of this enormous sum of money is paid by the farmers of Nebraska. It is nearly twice as much as it should be. It will continue to increase as long as the farmers of Nebraska stay at home on election day to earn a couple of dollars husking corn.

The Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

Amount of money appropriated

Amount of money appropriated	\$1,870,140.35
Total amount of taxes levied	1,768,563.46
Deficiency	\$101,576.89

So you see, governor, if every dollar of the exorbitant taxes which you have levied this year and under which the people are groaning was actually collected, still the state would be deeper in debt at the end of the year to the amount of \$101,576.89. Instead of getting the state out of debt, it is going deeper and deeper in debt, and must be so unless the expense of running the state government is reduced or the taxes increased. As the state will be still deeper in debt at the end of this year, notwithstanding the terrific taxes you have levied, it is plain to every man that if you are continued in office that taxes must be increased. The people of Nebraska will know that when the fusionists went