

MAJORS A COWARD.

A Brilliant Journalist Tells Why Majors Refused to Meet Shrader—The Two Men Compared.

Majors Is Stripped of His Flimsy Disguises and Held Up In His True Light.

Shrader "Stood Up" for the People.

The following article appeared in the World-Herald of September 15th:

"We must respectfully decline to have any discussion with a person who has openly announced his blasphemous contempt for the constitution and the judiciary of the state. To do otherwise would be to dignify anarchy."

This is the language employed in Thomas J. Majors' refusal to discuss the political issues with his opponent, Charles D. Shrader.

For several weeks the republican leaders have studied a reply to a challenge which they dared not accept. For weeks they have cogitated on the problem how to retreat without retreating; how to show the white feather without exhibiting cowardice; how to get away from a battle-field they could not hold, because they had neither a warrior nor a weapon.

The result of their deliberation was the refusal to fight. In order to conceal the real reason for this declination the reply was an insinuation that Shrader was an anarchist. There has been a good deal of just such talk as this made by republican politicians, and it is wrong, because it is an injustice to a man whose chief fault is his fidelity to principle and his zeal for a cause. In the legislature Shrader became a leader of the independents, not by selection, but because his earnestness and his ability pushed him forward. He was the leader of men who had spent their whole lives upon farms and who were hardly able to cope with the republican parliamentarians on the floor of that house. The railroad lobby with which Nebraska is cursed, wanted opponents who would "lie down;" they had no use for opponents who would stand up. Shrader stood up. It was not his nature to lie down. He did not always "stand up" gracefully, but he stood up vigorously. The vigor and loyalty of his nature was soon recognized by the lobby and when they failed to buy him they sought to traduce him. They followed him after the legislature adjourned because they knew that he was capable of doing much injury to the cause of railroad domination in this state; and since that adjournment, even before his name had been mentioned for lieutenant governor, they continued to malign him.

It is a policy the railroad lobby has persistently adhered to—this hounding of a man who has the ability and the honesty to fight it. In Shrader's case they have carried it out to the bitter end. With that lobby which has preyed upon the vitals of the republican party in this state and brought it to its present unhappy position, fiction is always preferable to fact.

By the industrious use of fiction they have endeavored to create an impression that Shrader is an anarchist. In the present instance they take advantage of this fiction to further advance the impression they desire to obtain among the people and at the same time to provide an excuse for their preferred candidate to crawl out of a contest—instead of being carried out on a stretcher.

If Shrader was an anarchist his sentiments would be manifested or detected in a joint discussion. No one would profit more by this revelation than Majors himself, whose hope of election is today as barren as his fidelity to the railroads in the 1st legislature was vigorous. If Shrader was an anarchist the people of Nebraska, with the quick perception of Americans, would promptly discover it. If Shrader was an anarchist he would not be listened to by any of the great crowds of Nebraska who have gathered there in all the years of the state's history. This paper is now one of the strongest

portions of the state to listen to political truths.

The people of this state have a right to see and compare the men who are candidates for their offices. Appreciating their own ability to judge a man, the people will not accept as truth the slander of his opponent. They will not accept as truth the unsupported statement of a man who is less entitled to their suffrages than any other candidate in the field—and that's a pretty hard thing to say under the circumstances.

Shrader is now making a tour of the state and the people of Nebraska will learn the solemn truth—that he is a man of more than ordinary ability, honest and sincere in his convictions and vigorous in maintaining his principles. They will find that, instead of being an enemy to the constitution, Shrader is a firm advocate of that article; that he is fighting to have it observed to the letter and respected at the capital of the state, where the lobbyists most do congregate in the effort to destroy its effect. They will find in Shrader a man who battled for the union with his musket and has not found it necessary to fight those battles over again with his mouth in the search for office. They will find a man who impresses impartial men with the sincerity of his purpose and who draws nearer to him on better acquaintance those who seek to learn him as he is.

Shrader is a poor man who is laboring under the disadvantages under which all poor men labor. He has no idle lobbyists to stand on street corners and chant his praises. He does not stoop to insane oddities or the wearing of chestnut shirts, because he has something better to distinguish him—brains.

In this contest the entire power of the lobby is being operated against Shrader. There is something commendable in a man who goes out before the people of a great state to meet the power of corporations and fight his own battle. There is little to commend in a man who expects a railroad lobby to fight his battle. In this instance, however, there is one thing to commend. It is Majors' discretion. Between Majors and Shrader there is absolutely no comparison. This is high treason to the men who have persistently worshipped at the shrine of a hickory shirt, but it is the absolute truth.

Majors has won many friends by his cordial greetings and good fellowship. He can make a good speech at a campfire. No man in the state has friends who are more loyal than has Majors. But he did not win one of them by his ability. He did not secure one of them because, in his public life he has looked out for the welfare of the people more and the interests of the corporations less. They say he was a good soldier. That is a mighty credit to his past record, but it may be offset by his present attitude. John Sahler, it is said, was a good boy. Look at John Sahler now.

Majors on the stump with Shrader would be humiliating for Majors' friends. The Nemaha county office seeker has never known what it is to contest for an election upon great principles. There is not a public issue now before the people when Majors is capable of discussing before an intelligent audience with any well posted man. He can twirl the "bloody shirt" to perfection, but he has spent his years in studying that politics which is the art of getting office rather than the science of government.

When Majors refused to meet Shrader in joint discussion he knew how thoroughly Majors had deceived those people who have imagined that he is a man of even ordinary ability; he knew, as those who have studied Majors well know, that strip him of his deep bass voice and his hickory shirt and there's only a bunch of railroad passes left.

It was not extreme dignity which prompted Majors to refuse to debate with Shrader. It was extreme cowardice. It was the same character of cowardice which, when he was caught in the act of sneaking into congress on false and fraudulent certificates prompted him to shift the blame upon a weaker man.

It was the same character of cowardice which prompted him to make the most shameful rulings, in the senate deadlock over the Newberry bill, which disgraced the records of any parliament-

tary body—simply because he was afraid to meet the issue.

It was the same cowardice which prompted him to sit quietly in the republican convention at Kearney while his arch-enemy was being presented with the biggest plum in the party's gift; and while the majority of the convention was only waiting, anxious for a leader with nerve enough to say "don't do it."

But with all his boasted courage Majors allowed his arch-enemy to tramp upon him. With all his boasted courage he has not the nerve to face his opponent and before the people whose suffrage he desires defend the principles in which he pretends to believe.

In his political career Majors has done many small things. But in all his record there is not one other which so forcibly speaks for itself as this which reveals at once the malice of the slanderer and the attribute of the coward.

Kem at Lexington.

On one of those beautiful days that Nebraska alone can produce, the 13th of September, the farmers began to gather at Lexington, the county seat of Dawson county. By the hour of 10 o'clock, the principal delegations had arrived. They were then formed into a procession fully one and a half miles in length.

The bands in the procession, numbering four, and properly distributed with their respective delegations, began to fill the air with the choicest of music. Under the direction of the marshal of the day, B. F. Davis, they marched through main street and then to the fair grounds. The first thing that presented itself to the eye, when coming in sight of the fair grounds was the eighty foot flag pole that had just been raised with a large silk flag floating to the breeze in honor of Weaver and Fields.

And by the time the procession had gained entrance to the grounds it was announced that dinner would be the first part of the programme. At once baskets, boxes and tubs were seen going in all directions through the crowd, as well as large pieces of the roasted ox which was soon devoured.

Just at this particular crisis of the day Mr. Kem made his arrival, and many were the salutations and greetings that escaped the busily engaged crowd.

After dinner the Lexington band gave some of their choice pieces of music at the close of which Hon. O. M. Kem was introduced and spoke for fully two and a half hours, holding his audience with perfect ease. He was greeted many times with rounds of applause.

When Mr. Kem had finished his speech. Prof. Crane gave some select vocal music, after which J. H. Darner who is the candidate by the people's party for state senator in the Thirtieth district, a fluent and exceptionally forcible speaker showed that the friends who had laid upon him their confidence made no mistake in their choice. If the outlook of this occasion is to be taken as a criterion for the political attitude of Dawson county, she will break her record of 1890 by giving every candidate of the people's party majorities from three to five hundred.

A VISITOR.

The Worst Enemy of Kansas.

The worst enemy of Kansas is the man who is constantly striving to destroy the credit of its people.—Champion.

Very well, who is it that has been proclaiming Kansas people repudiators, and filling the press with reports that were calculated to injure their credit? We agree with you, and, upon your own testimony, we charge it against your Republican press that it is the worst enemy Kansas ever had.—Topeka Advocate and Tribune.

He Knows Better.

Briggs—Are you going back to the Bangup hotel this year?

Griggs—Not much. I came away last year from that hotel and forgot to tip the head waiter.—Life.

Particulars next week.

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