

VICTORIOUS VAN WYCK.

The Republican Champion Completely Vanquished—Crouse Slanders Van Wyck and Slaps the People in the Face.

THE OLD GENERAL CARRIES EVERYTHING BY STORM.

A Full Account of the Van Wyck-Crouse Joint Discussion in Bobanan's Hall September 29.

By two o'clock last Thursday afternoon Bobanan's immense hall was filled with people, and still they continued to pour in till most of the standing room was occupied. To all appearances republicans and independents were there in about equal numbers, and there was also a goodly number of democrats.

The crowd was exceedingly good natured and when the speakers entered their friends took turns in giving them a hearty and noisy welcome.

Lawyer Chas. E. Magoon of Lincoln presided. Crouse introduced and received with cheers. He said: "I have always received good will and favor from the people of Nebraska. I owe a great deal to Nebraska. I am here to-day as a Nebraskan, and a republican, and I am proud to appear as such. I couldn't be tempted to be anything but a republican. I will never follow off after any false gods or false heresies to secure a governorship."

Mr. Crouse then referred to the debate at Beatrice, and charged that General Van Wyck presented no issue. Now he would try to do better. He was for the republican platform. He then read the tariff plank of the Minneapolis platform, and made some rambling comments on it. He said Van Wyck voted for the tariff of 1883 which placed a higher tariff on lumber than McKinley did. Now he said the General was complaining that farmers must leave their machinery out in the weather because they couldn't buy taxed lumber to build sheds.

He said under the influence of protection self-binders had fallen from \$300 to \$150.

He sneeringly remarked that he understood the alliance people passed the hat at their meetings in the country to raise campaign funds. He said if they would keep the money they throw in the hat and buy lumber they could have sheds for their machinery. He said all the talk indulged in by General Van Wyck and other independent speakers consists of appeals to ignorant prejudice and passion for the purpose of stirring up discontent.

He wanted to know why Van Wyck hadn't framed a tariff bill while he was in congress. He said it took brains to frame such a bill. They had found a man with brains in McKinley. Any man could pop away at an item in a bill, but only a man of brains could make a tariff schedule.

He then began a bitter assault on congressman Bryan. Said he was trying to ride two horses. He had no business talking free silver when his party was against it. Bryan should have renounced free silver and gone with his party. (Hisses from democrats) He said: I am an American from top to bottom, and I point with pride to the McKinley bill. (Applause.) He then told of the comforts and luxuries found in the homes of American workmen. He told how the tariff on lumber gave employment to American labor.

He then read the reciprocity plank, and spoke of the great man who origi-

nated the idea, James G. Blaine. (Applause.) He said reciprocity had opened markets for American products. He referred especially to the removal of German restrictions on American pork, as a result of meat inspection.

Next Mr. Crouse read the silver plank. He said: "I am in favor of an honest dollar. At Beatrice, General Van Wyck said he was in favor of an honest dollar, but he afterward declared that he favored a fiat money. I am not in favor of fiat money." He then ridiculed Van Wyck's Beatrice speech in which he went back and traced the history of the use of silver as money from the time of Abraham down.

He said this talk about silver being stricken down in the dark was nonsense. He was proud of his vote in congress for the resumption of specie payments. He said the man who would compare the money paid to the soldiers to that paid to the bond-holders was belittling American patriotism.

He said the money to prosecute the war came largely from old men and those who were unfit for service at the front who brought out their hoards. Widows sold their jewels etc. All this cry about bond-holders and Shylocks was simply an appeal to prejudice and passion. He compared independents to Cain who was jealous of his brother Abel's prosperity, and therefore slew him.

He repeated the charge that Van Wyck drew double pay during the war, as congressman and Colonel. The greenbacks were not fiat money. They were promise to pay.

He referred to Van Wyck as being worth half a million, and spoke of his palatial mansion in Washington.

He had just been up the Republican Valley. From the stories he had heard of 172 foreclosures on farms, etc., he expected to see harrowing scenes of destitution, poor people wandering along the roadside hungry and half clad. But he saw nothing of the kind. When he got to Culbertson he asked the banker (great laughter from independents) and he said there was nothing of it. Nearly all the foreclosures were on fellows who had left the country. Rascals had taken claims and got their neighbor alliance men to appraise them away above their real value, and thus got big loans on them and left the country.

He said instead of destitution he found prosperity. The farmers in the Republican Valley this year had crops of corn that go from 80 to 100 bushels to the acre. (Laughing by the farmers.)

"Van Wyck goes hand in hand with grasshoppers, and drouth and potato bugs, and devils who raise the value of their pre-emptions."

He favored using the American product of silver. He would put a dollar's worth of value behind each dollar. He took greenbacks to Europe, and they passed readily. Why? Because the credit of the United States was behind them.

He had no objection to General Van Wyck getting an office if he would get it through the republican party, but he didn't want him to get it by fraud and imposition on the people.

He spoke very slightly of General Van Wyck's record in the state legislature and in congress. He said he would like to know what bill in the interest of the people General Van Wyck ever introduced and championed.

"Van Wyck has done Nebraska infinite damage. Everywhere I go I have to defend and apologize for the state."

"There is only one honest dollar, that which has the intrinsic value of a dollar. The men who want to pay their debts in depreciated currency are scamps and scoundrels. They ought not to belong to the republican party. I don't want to be elected by the votes of such men. (a voice: "You won't be.") I am a proud man and belong to a proud family, and will never truckle for votes. I don't want to be elected except by the honest votes of honest men." (Many voices: "You won't be elected.")

The talk of such men as Van Wyck and other independent leaders was anarchistic. If these men had been at Chicago and talked so at the time of the Haymarket riot, they would have been hung up with Spies, the anarchist.

The speaker then severely ridiculed Ignatius Donnelly. He read a paragraph from the people's platform and

ridiculed it. He then turned to the record of the last legislature. The independents were always howling about corruption. They had furnished the first man who sold out, Taylor. (A question: "Who bought him?") You furnished the cattle for sale and they were bought. [Some claim that Mr. Crouse said "we bought them" but others heard it as above. We give the speaker the benefit of the doubt.—EDITOR.]

Next he took up trusts. Reed's congress had passed a law against trusts. He read part of the law. At Beatrice Van Wyck had attacked trusts and reflected on Carnegie. He was glad we had such men as Carnegie. We have thirteen millionaires in Nebraska, and he wished we had fifty. "The man who whoops against the millionaires simply lacks capacity in his top-piece. If you farmers would quit standing round the street corners talking politics, and would save the money you throw in the hat to buy frocks and shoes for your children you'd get on better." (Hisses from all parts of the hall.)

He then referred to Shrader as the man who "damned the constitution," and charged that a bill against trusts had been referred to Shrader's committee in the legislature and he had reported that it be indefinitely postponed. As a reward for that he had been made General Van Wyck's running mate. McReynolds was also attacked on similar grounds.

He said they had not passed good bills introduced simply because that would use up their political capital.

Here time was called and Mr. Crouse sat down amidst lively cheering from the republicans. His speech however had roused the blood of all the independents present and cast a serious damper over the republicans.

When General Van Wyck arose to speak there was a perfect storm of applause: Men stood shouting and waving hats for some minutes. The General's speech was devoted largely to replying to the insinuations and slurs cast upon him. He said he had come here to discuss principles, but his opponent had thrown dirt.

Referring to the claim of the republicans that they wanted every dollar to be as good as any other dollar, he said the soldier who fought at the front was paid in greenbacks which as compared with the bond-holders' gold was not worth fifty cents on the dollar. Then after the war was over, under pretense of "strengthening the public credit," they had made the principal as well as the interest of the bonds payable in coin. Had they ever enacted a law making up to the old soldier the difference between what he received and gold? (Great applause.)

He acknowledged that the last congress had legislated against trusts. But they had not enforced the law, and the republican administration never intended to. He described the great sugar trust which is now in full force and is still protected by a tariff on refined sugar. Claus Spreckels, the great sugar king of California, had come over to Philadelphia, and the people had given him 3½ million dollars to build a sugar factory. He did so, and last spring he sold out to the trust, cleared 3 million, and now the factory is closed, and 600 people thrown out of employment. The trusts knew that the republican party didn't mean to hurt them. While the Minneapolis convention was declaring its hostility to trusts, a great wall paper trust was being formed in the east. The republicans showed no disposition to enforce the law.

Judge Crouse had said he was an enemy to the state. He had said years ago in the senate that freight rates were so high in Nebraska that the people burned corn, because it was more profitable than to ship it out and ship in coal. He had told the truth. A great howl had gone up that he would check immigration. He thought the contrary. People would want to come to a state that was rich enough to stand such oppression.

Judge Crouse didn't know what he had ever done. He would show him. He had introduced a usury bill while he was senator making the legal rate of interest 8 per cent. In spite of his efforts, the bill was amended by making it 10 per cent. Then he had secured a very important provision in the

bill to prevent agents from evading the law by pretending to be agents of the borrower. This bill he had got through.

He had introduced in 1879 a bill reducing passenger fare in this state from 5 to 3 cents per mile. It was defeated. Then he introduced it with the proviso, that it should be submitted to the people for decision before going into effect. But this was defeated also. In congress he had introduced a silver bill and fought it for two years.

He had introduced and fought through a bill forfeiting 15 million acres of unearned railroad land. (Applause.)

He had fought to make railroad land subject to taxation, and finally got it through the senate.

He gave Mr. Crouse credit for getting such a bill through the house, and said he might mention other good things that Mr. Crouse had done if he had time. (Laughter.)

The General then told how he had fought against the tariff on lumber while in congress. He said for all Judge Crouse's ridicule it was a fact that much valuable machinery stood out because farmers were unable to buy lumber; also there were still a great many people living in sod houses yet for the same reason. He asked why every man who buys a thousand feet of lumber should have to pay a dollar to go into the pocket of a monopolist. As to fostering American labor, these lumber lords hire Canucks because they can get them cheaper. (Applause.)

We are told that the object of putting on a tariff is to bring prices down. But the State Journal and republican speakers have been shouting: "Behold cheap sugar under the McKinley bill!" How was it made cheap? By taking the tariff off. If that was a good thing why didn't they go on and make some other things cheap in the same way?

Years ago when he was battling for free sugar, the Journal had called him a demagogue, then a democrat, and lastly a free trade democrat. But now it sings the praises of McKinley for giving us free sugar.

The General then picked up a late number of the State Journal and read an article in which the Journal had quoted from a speech he had made in congress in 1861, just before the war, while the southern members were still in congress. The Journal tried to show that he was not in favor of the war, that he wanted to let the south secede. "This paper is run by cowardly scoundrels" remarked the General as he drew a sheet of paper from his pocket. He said he had just been up to look at the records in the state house to see what he really did say in that speech. He then read showing that the Journal had cut his sentences in two, so as to give the contrary meaning. As he read on he was greeted again and again by bursts of applause. He said the Journal ought to print the whole speech; The Journal readers would have something worth reading.

Referring to the charge that he had received double pay, he said he was glad of an opportunity to discuss that matter.

He was in congress at the time of the battle of Bull Run. A number of congressmen thought they would go down and witness the battle. He advised them not to go. He said a better plan would be for them to get through with their duties and go home and raise regiments for the service. Several of them went to see the battle and were taken prisoners. At the close of the session he went back to his district and raised the strongest regiment in the service. It contained 15 companies, 13 infantry one artillery and one cavalry. And he enlisted with the rest and was made Colonel.

There were a lot of fellows in his district as mean as the men who are now hounding him with these slanders. They raised the cry that the soldier would be paid in greenbacks, and that by the time the war was over they wouldn't be worth anything, a bushel of them wouldn't pay for a bushel of beans. To reassure the members of his regiment, he told them that he had faith in the government, and that he would wait till the close of the war for his pay and would take it in greenbacks whatever they might be worth. (Applause.)

They went to that beautiful spot on the Hudson where Washington once