

Sample Ballot

General Election November 4, 1930

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

SENATE FILE NO. 149

"FOR amendment to the Constitution fixing individual liability of stockholders in banking corporations or banking institutions, and providing for the immediate collection of such liability upon the failure of such banking corporations or banking institutions," and

"AGAINST amendment to the Constitution fixing individual liability of stockholders in banking corporations or banking institutions and providing for the immediate collection of such liability upon the failure of such banking corporations or banking institutions."

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

SENATE FILE NO. 189

"FOR amending Section 3 of Article XIII of the Constitution of Nebraska, to read as follows:

"Section 3. The credit of the state shall never be given or loaned in aid of any individual, association, or corporation. The state legislature, however, in order to help pay any deficit in the Depositors Guaranty Fund and to discharge the obligations thereof to depositors in banks closed by the Department of Trade and Commerce prior to December 31, 1931, may appropriate out of any money in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of eight million dollars or as much thereof as may be deemed necessary, and such appropriation shall be deemed to be for a public purpose, namely, to relieve distress and prevent suffering and to stabilize and strengthen the state banking system."

"AGAINST amending Section 3 of Article XIII of the Constitution of Nebraska to read as follows:

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Certificate of County Clerk

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct sample of the "Official Ballot" to be used at the polls in Cass county, Nebraska, at the General Election on Tuesday, November 4th, 1930. Witness my hand and the seal of my office at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, this 28th day of October, 1930.

GEO. R. SAYLES,
Cass County Clerk.

Sample Ballot

General Election November 4, 1930

Proposed by Initiative Petition

322 YES This Act relates to cities and villages and public electric light and power districts which own or operate electric light and power plants, distribution systems and transmission lines. It authorizes the extension of such lines and systems for the purpose of serving farmers and others living outside such cities and villages and also authorizes the owners of such plants to provide means for financing same.

Proposed by Initiative Petition

324 YES This law (1) gives cities and towns owning electric light and power plants the right, provided cost is paid out of net earnings, to extend their lines beyond their border to serve farmers and others, and (2) the right to pay for power plants, etc. by pledging future earnings instead of by taxation, and (3) provides that no publicly-owned plant may be sold except upon approval of sixty percent of voters and filing of statement of original cost, etc. with Department of Public Works, and limits amount of money which may be spent in campaign for sale of plant.

Proposed by Initiative Petition

326 YES This is an Act relating to cities, villages, and public electric light and power districts which own or operate electric light and power plants, distribution systems and/or transmission lines; prohibiting the sale of such plants, systems, or lines, except for cash, and unless authorized by a vote of the electors; regulating such election; forbidding the giving or receiving of anything of value in connection with such sale or purchase for such plants, systems or lines, and to fix a penalty for violation thereof.

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GEO. R. SAYLES,
Cass County Clerk.

Cass County's Part in the State History

Rock Bluffs Vote Would Have Changed Complexion of State Politics in Election of 1866.

If a group of election officials could have restrained their noon appetites 60 years ago, the political complexion of Nebraska might have been of different hue than it is today and the territory's statehood possibly postponed an unknown number of years, the following from the Lincoln Star gives as a part of early Nebraska history.

But the men were hungry. And when the inner bell sounded, they picked up the ballot box and departed for food. Never did hungry men make a wilder gesture. Rock Bluffs isn't in the postal guide. The map gives it a population of forty-five. Those may be precinct figures. There's little left of the town that once hoped to be a metropolis.

In the day of river traffic, Rock Bluffs was a formidable rival of Plattsmouth, laid out about the same time. But the railroad went to Plattsmouth, and as it bulged west, the flourishing river commerce dwindled, and the story of Rock Bluffs is the story of many another bright prospect just missed by the rails.

All But Disappeared. Rock Bluffs, not much more than a single store, a school house, a few houses, six miles from a railroad, less from a good highway, lies in a little valley, formed by Queen hill on the north and King hill a trifle beyond. One of the earliest settlements in the territory, it has all but disappeared, but its history will keep the name alive as the name of many of these early ventures will never be preserved.

King hill, far older than Rock Bluffs, is a commanding site on the river, a great outcropping of solid rock, jutting into the water. It is the highest point up or down the river for miles, and the Otoes occupied both King and Queen hill for years before any towns were organized. The Indians signaled from these hills along both shores, and on them built their beacon fires. An old cemetery, one of the oldest in the state, lies on the edge of King hill, and both red men and white sleep there. A winding road leads up the heavily wooded hillside.

Plan Preserve Townsite. The Nebraska Daughters of the American Revolution are sponsoring a plan to preserve the old townsite and the older hills. If their campaign is successful, they hope to see King hill, Queen hill, and Rock Bluffs, one representative of the old Indian days and the other of the young Nebraska and its white promoters.

Benedict Spires was the first white settler to cross the river and make a home in the future Rock Bluffs. During the same year, F. M. Young, sr., William Young, N. R. Hobbs, William Gilmour, sr., Abram Towner, Benjamin Albin, and J. McF. Haygood came. A couple of years later, Thomas Patterson, Robert W. Stafford and H. H. Fowler were among those who laid out the town. Rock Bluffs was organized June 10, 1865, and North Rock Bluffs the following year. Nebraska's first annexation was the consolidation of two towns, following a special act of the legislature approved November 3, 1858, and incorporating the two settlements as Rock Bluff City.

Founded Newspaper. The Cass County Sentinel was founded there about that time. In 1870, J. D. Patterson, a well known educator of the time, erected a two-story brick building, 25 by 50 feet in size, at a cost of \$3,500. It was virtually the first high school building in the county, but it was closed three years later, through lack of support, as the day of Rock Bluffs was drawing to a close. It was remodeled into a district school.

In 1870, a Methodist church was erected. It stood until it was burned in 1916. Not as a church, however. It was of brick and stone, one of the finest in the town, 20 by 40 feet in size. The church was taken by the mortgagee in 1883, and later it was sold for a hay barn. While filled with alfalfa, it burned in the winter of 1916. William and Eben Graves manufactured the brick and later put up the brick work on the church.

Had 450 in 1863. Rock Bluffs had a population of 450 in 1863, a number that had dropped to 172 in 1880. The town had numbered considerably more people in the years between. By 1880, the natural advantages of the location and the faith of its citizens had proved inadequate to save Rock Bluffs from certain failure. The iron horse had proved greater than the side wheeler.

Rock Bluff City had been involved in an unsuccessful county seat contest in 1861. The special election of April 15, resulted in 368 votes for Plattsmouth, 223 for Rock Bluffs, and 109 for Mt. Pleasant. The town flourished for another dozen years, however, and it was not until 1874 that its commercial life was doomed. The Shera family kept store there for many years to follow, and it was only eight years ago that one of the show places of the early day was burned. Robert Stafford built a log house with rock foundation and a second story, the height of luxury in the frontier days, and it still had its traditions to the day of its burning.

Lived in Memories. What was once the liveliest town

along the river west of St. Joe lived much in its memories by 1877. Its residents, however, still hoped and retained their interest in the vicinity's agricultural products. A Rock Bluffs correspondent, writing in the Plattsmouth Journal, March 13, 1877, said: "We are still here, and hard at work; nearly everybody and their children are busy picking corn. Corn is yielding on stalk ground from 30 to 40 bushels to the acre, and from 50 to 60 bushels to the acre on stubble ground, which is a difference that some farmers should make a note of, and hereafter rotate their crops a little more.

"We are very much in want down here, we want somebody to buy, repair, and run our grist mill, we want a doctor down here to cure our ills, we want some men who will build up our town in the place of those who are tearing it down for in a few months four houses have been taken down and hauled to Plattsmouth."

Center Political Interest. It was in 1863—June 2, exactly—that Rock Bluffs became the center of the territory's political interest. Upon the counting of the vote in that village depended under what political banner Nebraska would come into the Union. And that, although it wasn't suspected previously, depended, as has been said upon men who wanted their dinner.

There's quite a story to it. April 10, 1864, Congress passed the enabling act, which also provided for a May election of members of a convention to assemble July 4. This convention was to frame a constitution for presentation to the people in October. When the constitutional convention met in July it organized and adjourned permanently before business had been transacted, two-thirds of the members being unfavorable to statehood and expressing their will and that of their constituencies in that fashion.

Because of the marked anti-statehood sentiment, no mention of the question was made at the October, 1865, election. Following this election a plan was developed to resolve the legislature into a convention to draft a constitution and to organize a state government. This idea was eventually accepted and worked out, and an election held June 2, 1866.

Question of Statehood. The question of statehood was the most important facing the voters. When voting upon statehood, they also voted upon the officers, in the event statehood carried, and upon the legislature, which would elect two United States senators. The democrats were in favor of retaining the territorial status. The republicans believed in statehood at once. David Butler was the republican candidate for governor and J. Sterling Morton was his opponent. The people were rather equally divided upon the question.

When election day was over, it was officially announced that the constitution carried by a majority of 100, 3,938 to 3,838 which ended a long struggle between the republicans and the democrats over statehood. The state officers, the council, the Cass county officials were all republicans. When the legislature met, John M. Thayer and T. W. Tipton, republicans, received 29 votes and J. Sterling Morton and A. J. Poppleton were given 21 each.

Rock Bluffs the ballot box, and the dinner bell were important causes, it is said, in this result. The democrats spoke warmly of this transaction, the minority in the legislature prepared a long report, and proponents of both sides fought back and forth for months to come, after the election.

Field for Manipulation. One historian writes: When it was ascertained that manipulation of local election returns somewhere was necessary to insure a republican majority on a joint ballot in the legislature, Rock Bluffs precinct was selected as the most promising field of operation.

Rock Bluffs precinct cast 107 votes for the democrats and forty-nine for the republicans. The democrats would have six members of the legislature from Cass county, with this voting. Naturally, without them, the republicans stood in the ascendancy. Dr. A. E. Sheldon in his "History and Stories of Nebraska" explained the election in this manner:

"It was found that the election officers who had charge of the ballot box in Rock Bluffs precinct had gone at noon from the house where the election was held to a house a mile away to eat dinner and had taken the ballot box with them. The box should be in sight of the voters on election day from 9 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night. The county clerk and the man who clipped him to canvass the votes at Plattsmouth threw out all the votes from Rock Bluffs precinct because the ballot box went to dinner instead of staying at the polls. This gave the six republican candidates a majority in Cass county."

Effectuated Election. Morton and Poppleton would presumably have gone to the senate in place of Thayer and Tipton had the Rock Bluffs votes been counted.

Some of the comments are amusing, 64 years later. Some of them are stated in no uncertain terms. One frank soul believed that no two judges had been together at the noon hour, when the ballot box location was causing such a havoc.

A Nebraskan on the other side stated that: "There is no question whether of the legally polled votes there was a majority of 100, or a majority at all."

DUROC JERSEY BOARS

I have some excellent husky Duroc Jersey Boars for sale. Address me at Nehawka or come see them.—Otto Schaffer, Nehawka, Neb. 016-Stw.

For Job Printing call the Journal.

THE RAILROADS IN 1930

The railroads of the United States have done a fine work this year in maintaining employment and business progress. It is reported that capital expenditures by the lines during the first six months of 1930, for new equipment and additions and betterments to railroad property, totaled \$468,395,000—\$118,000,000 more than in 1929. Yet, during the same period,

railroad traffic was less than at any time since 1924 and railroad revenues were greatly reduced. The return to the lines during the six months' period was at the rate of but 3.61 per cent, as compared with 5.52 per cent last year.

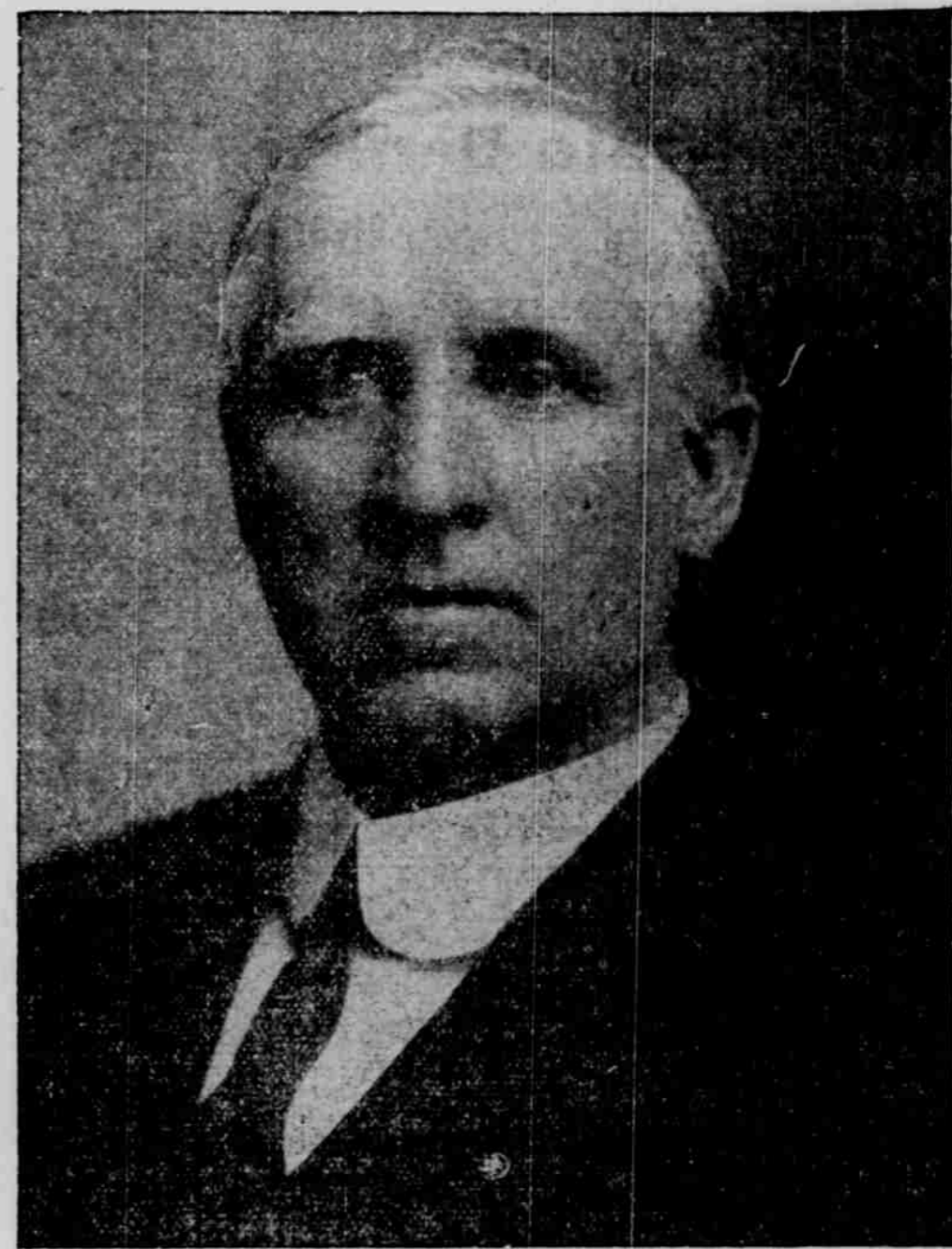
We have had a business depression but it would have been a great deal more serious had it not been for the public spirit of the railroads. They have gone ahead, in the face of declining revenues, improving service

and doing a fine work not only for the benefit of their employees and customers but for the nation as a whole. It is impossible for any industry, no matter how willing it may be, to progress indefinitely without receiving an adequate profit for the work it does. The railroads are the life-blood of industry and of agriculture and essential to community prosperity.

(Political Advertising)

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I have lived in Richardson county for more than forty-four years. Being engaged in private as well as public business, the people are familiar with my ability as a business man.

Many Eastern states re-elect their Congressmen for many years, thus giving them advantages of Committee assignments and the opportunity to do more constructive work for their states and districts. My experience as Representative in Congress better qualifies me than one who is not familiar with the duties of the office.

I always take the same interest in the affairs of the First District that I do in my personal business.

My home county has always given me a large majority, making me feel that those who know me best appreciate my services.

My ambition in public life is to guard, closely, the taxpayers' money, and keep expenses down to the lowest point consistent with good government.

Living all my life in an agricultural country, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, I know the needs of the farmer.

I helped to secure the Veterans' Hospital at Lincoln for my district; also franchises permitting the building of bridges across the Missouri river; new rural routes and extension of old routes; increased Federal appropriations for good roads; liberal legislation for Civil, Spanish-American and World War veterans; and other constructive pieces of legislation beneficial to Nebraska.

The greatest reward in public life is to be able to contribute something toward making this a better Government in which to live, and to be of assistance to the people.

If re-elected, I will do as in the past, give my entire time to the duties of the office.

If my service has been satisfactory, your votes on November 4th will be appreciated.

JOHN H. MOREHEAD