

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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THAT UNANSWERED QUESTION.

In the defense of Bryan and Bryanism injected into the congressional proceedings by our only democratic congressman from Nebraska, one of the interruptions is noted, as follows:

Mr. Keifer—I would like to ask the gentleman—may he have stated it, although I failed to hear it—what the vote for Bryan was in 1899 as compared with his vote in 1906 in Nebraska?

Mr. Hitchcock—In Nebraska?

Mr. Keifer—Yes.

Mr. Hitchcock—I think I can furnish the information.

After the speaker had continued for some little time he was interrupted again, as follows:

Mr. Keifer—I did not understand the gentleman to answer my question about the relative vote for Bryan in Nebraska in 1896 and in 1906.

Mr. Hitchcock—I assure the gentleman from Ohio that I am not afraid to answer the question.

Mr. Keifer—You can answer it in a word. But a fellow democrat kindly came into the breach and the answer to the question was lost in the shuffle. Although the information is reasonably accessible, The Bee ventures to furnish the answer which our only democratic congressman so carefully avoided. The official election figures for Nebraska, taking the highest vote polled on presidential electors for the last three presidential elections, is as follows:

1896. 1900. 1904.

Total vote.....320,795 251,005 329,407

Republican.....103,064 121,825 136,558

Provision.....115,999 114,013 129,521

Democrat.....101,732 115,167 163,328

The answer to Mr. Keifer's question in a word is that while the total vote of Nebraska increased by 20,000, comparing 1896 with 1906, the vote polled by Mr. Bryan decreased nearly 2,000, comparing the same years.

In 1904 there was no fusion in Nebraska on presidential electors, the result being that the populists voted for their own ticket or for the Roosevelt ticket, leaving Parker only the democratic vote, which showed up in the returns as 52,921. In the same year fusion on the state ticket gave the fusion candidate for governor 102,568 votes, which would represent the maximum Bryanite strength and still a falling off of 10,000 from the vote polled by Mr. Bryan four years before.

It should also be recorded here for the benefit of the congressional debaters that at the last election in Nebraska the republican candidate for supreme judge, running on a platform endorsing the Roosevelt policies and indicating a preference for William H. Taft to succeed him, carried the state by the largest plurality in fifteen years with the single exception of that given to Theodore Roosevelt in 1904.

WARNING AGAINST EXTRAVAGANCE.

Chairman Tawney of the house committee on appropriations has informed congress that the greatest economy will be necessary to keep expenses within probable revenues for the ensuing fiscal year. Mr. Tawney declares that if the appropriations asked by the government were allowed by the present session of congress there would be a deficit of at least \$100,000,000 by June, 1909. As a measure of the economy he is urging, he recommends that no public building bill and no river and harbor improvement bill be adopted this year.

The warning of Chairman Tawney is timely, but the treasury condition is far from being as serious as his remarks would indicate. A deficit of \$100,000,000 for the next fiscal year would not mean that the government would have to go in debt to that amount to meet expenditures. It would mean simply that the estimated expenditures exceed the estimated receipts by that amount and that the deficit, so-called, would have to be paid out of accumulated funds in the treasury. The treasury now holds something in excess of \$250,000,000 in idle money, the accumulation of republican administration of national affairs. While economy is always advisable and desirable in the expenditure of public money, the needs of the country may be better served by an expenditure of some portion—of a surplus than by paring appropriations to the point of declaring needed public improvements.

There is a vast difference between creative and negative expenditures by the government. Money judiciously expended in the improvement of water ways, in reclamation projects, in forest preservation and like objects returns to the government in increased revenues. Large appropriations for battleships and army fortifications, as essential as they may be, come more under the negative classification. They return nothing and form a drain rather than a source of replenishing and increasing the revenues.

No fault can be found with Chairman Tawney for his appeal for economy. The method of accomplishing it is the point at issue. It is evident, too, that economy in expenditures is becoming urgent, even if the necessity is not immediately pressing. This need is not confined to congressional appropriations. Nearly every state and municipality in the union is taxed about to the limit. New York City has a bonded debt almost as large as that of the United States and nearly all local governments have apparently been spending public money recklessly. The wisest statesmanship will be that which, in national as well as local affairs, effects a proper adjustment between income and outgo and applies intelligent economy to the management of the public business.

"I want to be a member of the Sixty-first congress," said Congressman Kimball of Kentucky in a speech on the floor of the house, "for then

William J. Bryan will be president, Champ Clark speaker of the house and Henry Watterson secretary of the treasury." There is no prohibition law in the District of Columbia.

THE CENSUS AND CIVIL SERVICE.

Congress promises to have a pretty fight over plans now being made for the taking of the 1910 census. Provisions for that enumeration must be made at the present session and it is estimated that 4,000 additional clerks will be needed on the work in Washington. The president, it is announced, will insist that these clerks be selected by civil service examinations, while the congressmen would like to repeat the process employed in 1890 of having these additional clerks selected by "non-competitive examination." In other words, each member of congress is to be allowed to designate a certain number of persons for examination. The examination, under such plan, would be purely formal and the persons designated by the congressmen would be placed on the rolls of the classified service and be eligible to transfer to any other branch of the government service.

There are now about 24,000 government clerks in Washington, practically all of whom have secured their positions by the test of public examinations, in competition with thousands of other applicants for every position in sight. The proposal to add 4,000 names to this roll, without examination, is denounced as an injustice to the employes already on the roll and as carrying with it a practical certainty of weakening the efficiency of the forces. If the employment were temporary and the persons added to the public payroll were to be dropped with the completion of the census, the method of appointment of these clerks would not be open to such serious objection. But the records show that persons once placed on the public payroll usually remain there, especially if they are in line to be transferred from one place to another.

At the close of the last session, congress made a determined effort to have all the temporary employes of the census bureau placed on the permanent civil service roll. President Roosevelt protested so vigorously against the plan that it was finally abandoned, after a compromise had been reached by which the census bureau was made permanent, with a minimum force of regular employes. The president will evidently have to stand out again against this attempted violation of the principle of civil service. Under the pending proposition, each member of congress has the attractive prospect of appointing ten persons in his district and placing them in the way of securing permanent positions on the government payroll. The spoils spirit is not dead and it is nonpartisan.

A PARDON FOR CALEB POWERS.

Petitions asking Governor Willson of Kentucky to grant a pardon to Caleb Powers, charged with being an accessory to the killing of William Goebel, then governor of the state, are to be circulated in every state in the union. Under ordinary circumstances, the general public would be slow to evince keen interest in the conviction or acquittal of a man charged with crime in any community, but the Powers case has achieved a national significance, owing to the peculiar developments at the different trials, tending to show that the murder has been used as a means of building up and perpetuating a political machine in Kentucky and that the entire course of the case has been directed in the interests of politics instead of in the interests of justice.

Powers has been in the jails of Kentucky for eight years. He has been convicted at three trials and the court of appeals has each time reversed the verdict. The fourth trial resulted in a disagreement and he is still in jail awaiting a fifth trial. The jury in the fourth trial stood ten for acquittal and two for conviction. It was shown in the course of the last trial that the political bosses of Kentucky had insisted that none but democrats be allowed on the juries at the preceding trials and that the entire prosecution was planned and conducted for political purposes. The movement for the pardon of Powers has assumed state-wide proportions and some leading democrats there are now asking for his release. In the petition for the pardon appears this paragraph:

For eight years this man has lain in the jails of Kentucky. He has endured much. Patiently he has awaited the hope of final freedom by a jury of his peers. He has made a brave, manly fight, asking no quarter, seeking no favor other than that guaranteed by the law of the land. His fight for freedom will live in history. Caleb Powers has no private fortune. The expense of these trials has been enormous. The last one costing over \$30,000. We are reliably informed that the recent trial has exhausted what funds had been gathered by public contribution for his defense. Therefore, he is entirely without means to stand another trial.

Kentucky's disgrace occasioned by the prostitution of the judiciary to purely partisan purposes can never be wiped out, but a pardon for Powers might help people to forget it.

Our amiable democratic contemporary is deluding itself with the idea that republicans are "exceedingly anxious to furnish the democratic party with some other candidate than Mr. Bryan in the coming campaign." We do not believe it. All real republicans have from the start conceded Mr. Bryan's nomination at Denver by acclamation. The only anxiety to furnish the democratic party with some other candidate than Mr. Bryan is manifested in certain democratic quar-

ters that do not like to make a fight they have no hope of winning.

Knocks and Boosts

Too Small Game to Hunt.

Omaha Examiner.

Vie, next time you go a-gunning, go after bigger game. Get a bear instead of a Jack rabbit.

No Eleventh Hour Reform Convert.

York Times.

There is no man in Nebraska who more thoroughly and surely represents the progressive spirit of republicanism in Nebraska than Victor Rosewater. While it is "the new idea" to the eleventh hour reformer, it is to the world to Mr. Rosewater, for he was born under its spell and raised in its atmosphere. His sturdy father, after fighting for it with his whole soul, sometimes almost alone, for a third of a century, died just as the eastern sky proclaimed the dawn, falling, like Lincoln, at the moment when the sun, though obscured, had just begun to be felt, and deprived of the fruits of victory. His mantle fell on worthy shoulders and Victor Rosewater could not be recreant if he could. To fight corruption and monopoly, to stand for the people, is the sixteenth element of his body, stronger than all the others. His love and respect for his father invite him and the worst success of his great business, built upon that theory, compels him to be faithful to the traditions he has inherited. The elder Rosewater made enemies, needlessly sometimes, but never wantonly, and enemies are sometimes a hereditary curse, but the enemies of Edward Rosewater are nearly all converted to his views and will hardly hold it against the son.

The big job which County Assessor Shriver will have to tackle, almost without precedent to follow, is the assessment of railway property for taxation under the new terminal tax law.

The taxpayers of Omaha do not want the railway terminals over-assessed, but at the same time they insist that everything that is taxable be included and that everything be listed at fair market value.

It is intimated that a test case is to be brought to question the pay-in-advance rule which has been promulgated by the new clerk of the district court.

Won't some one please tell us why lawyers should object to paying court fees in advance, especially when they use their clients' money to make the payments?

According to the report of the city clerk, the Omaha city council had 1,752 more documents and motions submitted to its consideration in the year 1907 than it did in the year 1906.

It should be remembered, however, that the 1906 council was a republican body and that the 1907 council is made up exclusively of democrats with one exception.

The British government has finally agreed to pay \$100,000 for the ransom of Sir Henry MacLean, held a prisoner by Bandit Ralsuli.

As the original demand of Ralsuli was for \$1,000,000, the reduced price must make MacLean feel like a bargain counter remnant.

There are some other letters in the series written by the ex-lobbyist reformer when trying to connect with a payroll, but which he has not made public. Why not? Is it because one of them might tend to strain the cordial relations maintained with the Lincoln Journal?

An Omaha automobilist has been actually fined for navigating the streets after dark without lights on his machine. A few more surprise parties like this might convince the auto autocrat that pedestrians have some rights which they are bound to respect.

The spectacle of Mr. Hitchcock decorating the Congressional Record with a panegyric on the source of "the sting of ingratitude" deserves underscoring with red ink.

According to the Lincoln Star's size-up of the democratic gubernatorial situation, "Dahlman stock seems to have slumped off." Is that all?

Is the Lid On?

Chicago Tribune.

Mayor Dahlman's Omaha is another rugged and tumultuous city with an unspoken speech in its system.

Advance Information.

Brooklyn Eagle.

People like to know what they must expect. Senator Aldrich says that if his financial bill is not accepted, none shall be passed!

Two Fine Accomplishments.

Philadelphia Record.

It cannot be denied that Secretary of War Taft is an astute political general as well as a polished and tactful gentleman. These two accomplishments are not always worn under the same hat.

Explaining Bryan Psychology.

New York World.

We fear that Judge Parker does not understand the Bryan psychology. When a democrat booted Mr. Bryan's nomination in 1896, that was "treason to Jeffersonian principles." When Mr. Bryan knifed Judge Parker in 1904, that was "maintaining true democratic doctrine." Unfortunately there seems to be only one democrat in all the country whom Mr. Bryan considers wholly trustworthy.

Hail the Real Optimists.

Baltimore American.

The pessimists have been saying so many dreadful things and predicting such dire possibilities that the prophecy of a Missouri professor to the effect that the United States is destined to become a heaven on earth in this century is cheering, even though the cynics will receive it a little dubiously, remembering that heaven is peopled with angels and saints, and that the investigating committee here below have not ceased from troubling, nor are the muckrakers yet at rest.

What Will He Do With It?

New York World.

An Iowa bricklayer by the reversion of the Shurtleff college endowment fund has inherited this ancient institution of learning. What will he do with it? As Shurtleff is a Baptist college, will he dispose of it to Mr. Rockefeller? Or will he embrace his unique opportunity to become a college president, to don a silk gown, add an L.L.D. to his name, take up the burden of educational problems and foot ball and contribute his advice to the social and economic regulation of the nation?

Senate Republican for Many Years.

Boston Transcript.

There are forty-two republicans in the senate today who are already elected for terms which expire as late as 1911 or later. In detail, exclusive of Oklahoma, which has recently furnished two democrats, and of Rhode Island, which maintains a republican vacancy, the three classes of senators stand as follows. That which expires on the inauguration day next, eighteen republicans to eleven democrats; that which expires March 4, 1911, which the constructive work of the new administration will be practically over, stands twenty-four republicans to six democrats; that which expires in 1913 with the close of the next presidential term, stands eighteen republicans to eleven democrats. For the next four years a republican senate is as well assured as any future condition can be.

Political Mountebank Shows Up.

LINCOLN, Jan. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: I want to put you on the back and thank you for going after the political mountebank as you did in your signed editorial of January 22. It is most humiliating, and a disgrace to the republican party and our state, to have such a man as he attempting to dictate the policy of our party and attempting to besmirch the character and motives of honest men. There is no language of condemnation strong enough to fit his case. D.

Good Service for the State.

Waterloo Gazette.

Victor Rosewater, editor of The Bee, pays his respects to one F. A. Harrison of Lincoln in a manner not calculated to heal the breach apparent between the two men. Harrison is the man who is credited with being a LaPollette booster (in the interests of reform) and his past connection with the Union Pacific as a paid lobbyist and press distributor is established beyond peradventure by the editor. In his work Mr. Rosewater has done a good service for the state and the party.

Verdict of a Spelling Reformer.

Albion News.

Vicky Rosewater, selecting aid for correspondence through the state for his ambition to be selected one of the delegates-at-large to the national convention. He is exhibiting the same tendencies that marked his much abler father, in wanting to be the dictator and tripe-illustrous boss of the party. He lacks both years and ability for such a position, even if the party was in need of such a functionary.

Fodder for the Democrats.

PALLIS CITY, Neb., Jan. 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: I enclose you within a copy of the local democratic paper giving Harrison's unique republican (?) platform, minus the referendum, which possibly was oversight. It shows his evolving political affiliations. We all like your strong stand for Taft and thank The Bee for the victory last fall, and feel its editor deserves some recognition at the party's hands. M. N.

When it Comes to Smoothness.

Lincoln News.

When it comes to smoothness nobody questions the right of Victor Rosewater to occupy the front seat.

Still Sees Things.

Albion Star-Journal.

There has always been, and we presume always will be trouble with the Rosewaters. The thing that bothers and always has bothered is the overweening ambition of the various members of the family. The Star-Journal is not doubting but Victor is smart for a boy, but he has not the age nor the genial caliber that should be used in the making of United States senators.

A Declaration of Independence.

Norfolk Press.

Victor lacks several blocks of being in the big class class. Republicans who have minds enough to do their own thinking do not need nor want a boss, and will not tolerate one.

A Deserved Trimming.

OMAHA, Jan. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: Allow me to express my gratification at the manner in which you trimmed down one Frank A. Harrison, at the present time self-constituted reformer for the state of Nebraska, formerly paid lobbyist and all round herring for the Union Pacific railroad. As Lincoln I had ample opportunity to watch his cat-like movements in the different departments and what you handed him today was only part of what was coming to him. A.

Not Disturbing Republican Secrecy.

Baltimore American.

The war of words between Victor Rosewater and Frank Harrison, because the former did not happen to agree with the latter, will prove interesting without disturbing the serenity of the republican party of the state.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Augustus Heinze threatens to go back to Butte, Mont., and stay there.