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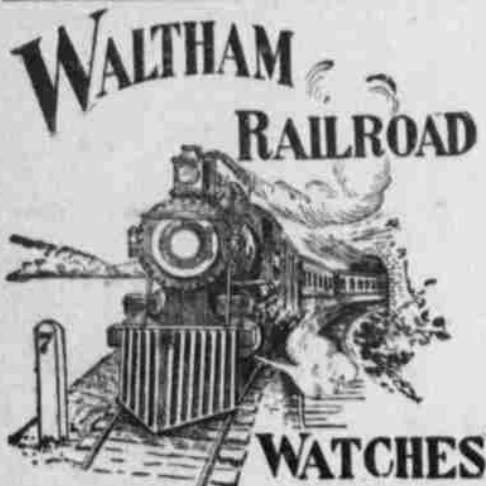
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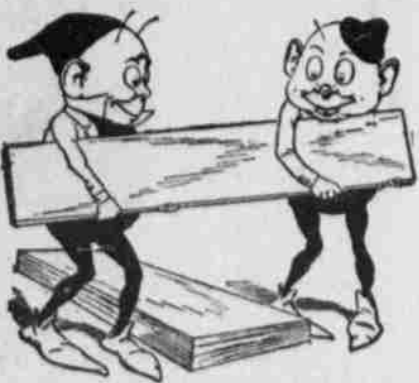
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Defense of a Faithful Public Servant

In a desperate effort to defeat G. M. Hitchcock, candidate for the U. S. senate, mud batteries have been opened against him and things published which, if true, ought to have been given to the public years ago, instead of being reserved to the wind-up of a senatorial campaign. The very fact



HON. GILBERT M. HITCHCOCK.

that these things were carefully held back during all these years, discredits them and also the parties who brought them out in this campaign. We are pleased to give our readers the following defense of Mr. Hitchcock from the democratic state central committee:

The vicious attack being made by Howard, Bartley and Vic Rosewater upon Gilbert M. Hitchcock in their frantic efforts to save Senator Bartley from impending defeat at the coming election already shows unmistakable signs of madness against the responsibility of causing disreputable men who have dishonored themselves and the state by their actions, together with the "so-called" evidence presented by Bartley, to expose the cause of Hitchcock. In view of the candid statement of Mr. Hitchcock giving the facts, and explaining them, the commission find with its hair common sense and reached the conclusion that Mr. Hitchcock is justified in making the charge against Bartley of attempting to blackmail him. The political and personal reasons animating Howard and Rosewater need no suggest themselves.

From all that has been given to the public thus far, the following are the necessary deductions:

It appears that in 1893, during the hard times, Mr. Hitchcock borrowed the sum of \$2,000 of Joseph S. Bartley, a banker and money lender, as well as state treasurer, and a man reputed to be wealthy at that time. It further appears that during the next few years, years of world-wide financial depression, which were especially bad years in Nebraska, which was stricken with a drought, Mr. Hitchcock found himself hard pressed for cash to continue the publication of the World Herald, which was not self-sustaining at that time, and was forced to ask in common with all other business men in those disastrous years, to have the time of payment on loans of money made by him extended. The loan made of Bartley was extended by having the original note cut up into smaller ones, falling due on different dates, on some of which further extensions were made, until all were finally paid in full, with interest. This transaction constitutes the case and only transaction in which Mr. Hitchcock borrowed money from Joseph S. Bartley, and the amount, with interest, was paid in full.

Bartley's subsequent history is well known. In 1897 he failed to turn over the state funds to his successor, becoming a defaulter, being afterwards tried, convicted and sent to the penitentiary.

It seems that in settling with one of the many banks with which he had dealings, some years later Bartley came into possession of notes for \$3,000, given by Mr. Hitchcock to an Omaha banker and secured by a second mortgage on Omaha property. This property had been sold under foreclosure proceedings during the hard times, bringing less than the amount of the first mortgage, thus wiping out the second mortgage. The property had been sold and the notes for which the second mortgage had been given as security were outlawed by lapse of time, when Bartley appeared as owner of the notes and demanded payment of the same. The transaction in which these notes were given was not with Bartley, but with an Omaha banker. Notwithstanding the notes were outlawed, Mr. Hitchcock sent a representative to Mr. Bartley and made a settlement with him, Bartley turning over the notes and papers to said representative of Mr. Hitchcock.

Mr. Bartley asks, why should he purchase second mortgages, when there were plenty of first mortgages to be had, thus throwing out the sug-

gestion of legitimate business transacted with actual money. From the facts and revelations recently made it seems, however, that Mr. Bartley's cunning, though great, was not sufficient to cover his tracks, so that in the present instance he furnishes evidence of the truth of the statement made by Ralph Waldo Emerson that "The devil is always an ass."

Mr. Bartley, it now appears, realized that his own disgrace could be turned into an asset for the purpose of blackmailing those with whom he had money transactions any time after becoming state treasurer. He therefore had the papers, letters and telegrams of the men with whom he had money dealings photographed, thus enabling him to make settlements with such as he could and at the same time, after turning over to them the original papers, retain copies that he could use for blackmailing purposes against any who at any future time should become candidates for public office.

Outlawed commercial paper is a cheap commodity, and it is doubtful if Mr. Bartley paid the Omaha banker from whom he received the Hitchcock notes a single penny for them. The Omaha banker holding the outlawed paper knew it was worthless, therefore, it would not be difficult for any person to negotiate for it, and it is probable that Mr. Bartley got it for the asking, particularly if Mr. Bartley suggested to the banker that a lot of the notes would entitle him to a larger measure of his good will. The Hitchcock notes which came into Mr. Bartley's possession through transactions with the Omaha banker were later settled for and surrendered by Mr. Bartley to Mr. Hitchcock's representative.

Why doesn't Senator Burkett manfully accept the challenge of Congressman Hitchcock to go with him on the rostrum and compare records in congress, and scorn the assistance of such men and methods as are coming to his assistance? It looks like a case of "any port in a storm."

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The devil is always an ass," the English of which is that men usually blunder and give themselves away in the practice of deceit and fraud. Does it not look as though Mr. Burkett, after judiciously declining to meet either Attorney Wheden, who was his rival for the nomination, or Gilbert M. Hitchcock, who is his rival for the election, on the stump before the people and defend his record against the charges of voting on the side of the trusts instead of on the side of his constituents, has at last fallen into the mistake of accepting assistance from Bartley and Howard?

Edward Howard of the Columbus Telegram appears to be a natural born demagogue, with his hand against everybody. Two years ago he fought the nomination of Latin for congress, trying to secure the nomination for himself, and continued the fight after being defeated. Last year he bolted the nomination of Judge Dean for judge of the supreme court and supported Sedgwick, the Republican. This year he appears to be the agent of Joe Bartley in a bitter fight against Hitchcock for the senate. Men of so unfortunate a temperament as Howard possesses are seriously handicapped in the race of life, generally, and are a downright nuisance in any organization they connect themselves with, political or otherwise. They cannot help it, however, as they were born so.

Is the hand of Secretary Ballinger seeking to smite Congressman Hitchcock in his senatorial aspirations? It will be remembered that it was Congressman Hitchcock who introduced the resolutions in congress under which the Ballinger investigation was conducted which resulted in the exposure of many frauds being perpetrated in the disposition of Alaskan coal lands. Ex-Governor Savage of Nebraska, who pardoned Joe Bartley from the state penitentiary, is said to be an intimate friend and business associate of Secretary Ballinger in the state of Washington. Bartley owes his liberty to ex-Governor Savage, and Ballinger is a mortal enemy of Congressman Hitchcock. Senator Burkett is familiar with all the facts and is making the battle of his life to secure reelection to the senate, with a record that he dare not face by meeting his rival on the rostrum in joint debate before the voters of Nebraska. The foregoing facts may account for the visits made by certain politicians in Nebraska to Bartley at Denver, which resulted in Bartley taking a hand in the fight to punish Hitchcock and assist Burkett. Doesn't it look suspicious, to say the very least?

Congressman Hitchcock is the author of the Ballinger investigation. He introduced the resolution in congress under which the investigation was conducted.

If Senator Burkett is not afraid that his record in congress will condemn him, why does he duck and dodge, and refuse to meet his rival for the senate in joint debate before the voters of the state?

Gilbert M. Hitchcock courts the widest publicity for his record as a congressman from Nebraska, but Senator Burkett cannot be dragged into standing before an audience and having his record read in his presence. Let us see, haven't we read somewhere that "They love the darkness rather than the light because their deeds are evil?"

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