

A BOON TO FARMERS.

What Republican Has Done for the Farmers of Nebraska.

How Prices for Farm Products Have Increased the Last Four Years

Important Facts Bearing on Local Affairs in Connection With the Poynter Administration.

Omaha, Sept. 3.—Slowly yet surely public sentiment in Nebraska is crystallizing against Bryanism. Hard times and low prices under Democratic rule are so firmly impressed on the memory of the voters that the attempt of Bryan to divert attention, through the instrumentality of vulnerable and fallacious doctrines, has fallen flat.

The people of Nebraska are too intelligent and too discerning to be deceived by the mocking-birds of Democracy on the question of "militarism" and "imperialism," and they have only to take their pencil and paper and do a little quiet figuring to determine what Republican victory really means for them.

Tell-Tale Figures.

The following figures will show the real difference between applied Democratic and Republican principles, the first column showing the prices under Democratic rule in 1896, and the second the prices prevailing now under Republican rule:

	1896	1900
Wheat	42c	62c
Corn	12c	28c
Rye	20c	36c
Oats	8c	17c
Hogs	\$2.50	\$4.50
Labor	\$1.00	\$1.75
Horses	\$25.00	\$65.00
Cattle (fat)	\$3.85	\$4.85
Cattle (feeders)	\$3.10	\$4.15
Sheep	90c	\$2.15

This means that the Nebraska farmer tilling 100 acres of land, and that is not considered a large farm in Nebraska, will receive at least \$800 more for the same amount of stock and grain in 1900 than he received in 1896.

There are thousands of 100-acre farms and thousands of farmers in Nebraska, so it can be seen at once that this increase in prices in the aggregate amounts to a large sum.

These figures are unanswerable. They deal staggering blows to Democracy and they at the same time attest the wisdom and reveal the substantial benefits of Republicanism. It can be seen by this that Republican prosperity has in four years increased the value of every cow, steer, sheep, horse, and every bushel of grain in Nebraska more than 30 per cent. It has increased the value of every acre of farm land, and, aside from household effects, has in many instances doubled the value of all the personal property on Nebraska farms.

The Republicans in Nebraska pin their faith to this record. They are willing to stand on it, confident in the intelligence and judgment of all the people.

Under such conditions is it possible that Bryan and the Democratic campaign orators can mislead the people into depositing the Republican party and voting the Democracy back into power? Is it possible that the voters of Nebraska can, by the seductive and alluring strains of the political siren, be duped into voting for Bryan and a return of the depression and distress of four years ago? A vote for Bryan means that and nothing else. Nor is this any more true of Nebraska than of the rest of the agricultural states. The report of the bureau of statistics of the agricultural department just issued shows to what extent the farmers have profited in the last four years on live stock values alone. Here are the figures:

	Jan. 1, 1896	Jan. 1, 1900
Horses	\$500,140,186	\$603,908,412
Mules	\$103,204,457	\$111,117,092
Milch cows	\$363,955,545	\$514,812,100
Other cattle	\$508,928,416	\$689,486,266
Sheep	\$65,167,735	\$122,665,913

Total ... \$1,541,396,339 \$2,042,840,813
This shows a net increase in values—a clear and clean profit to the farmers and stock owners—of \$501,444,474. Adding to this the increase in the value of swine and farm cereals, which is even a greater amount, and it is found that the entire gain amounts to the enormous sum of more than \$1,000,000,000.

Have a Right to Know.

The people of Nebraska have a right to demand of Governor Poynter an

explanation of his conduct in connection with the management of the various state institutions.

They have a right to an explanation as to why he has permitted officials to transgress the law without even so much as a public protest or reprimand.

Within the last few weeks reports of official corruption have been published—charges upon which prompt inquiry should be made—yet Governor Poynter has refused to act, and has made no apparent effort to stop these abuses. The gravest charges have not even commanded official attention, yet these charges are of such a nature as to be of the utmost importance to tax payers, involving as they do a reckless dissipation of the public funds. With wholesale pilfering going on in many of the state institutions it is no wonder that a large deficiency, conservatively estimated at \$100,000, is staring the Poynter administration and the people of Nebraska in the face.

For this, and for demoralizing the management of the public institutions by the appointment of political adherents irrespective of fitness, Governor Poynter will be held to answer. Proper management of public institutions is not a partisan question. All political parties profess to favor it. What shall be said or done with a party or official who proves recreant to this trust? That is the problem before the voters of Nebraska, and that is the charge upon which Governor Poynter and his party must stand trial to the high court of public opinion. Economy in the administration of public affairs is a matter of dollars and cents to every tax payer, and the fact that, with general appropriations approximating more than \$2,000,000, there is an apparent shortage of \$100,000, of itself proves that Governor Poynter has not practiced it.

Other Officials Extravagant.
Governor Poynter is not the only fusion official who has fallen short of party promises and public expectations. The names of State Treasurer Meserve, Attorney General Smyth and Land Commissioner Wolf may also be added.

It is no secret that a portion at least of the state school funds has been farmed out to favorite patrons. There is at least \$200,000 of school funds upon which the state is receiving no interest and which is no doubt deposited with such concerns as are "friendly" to the administration. Diligent inquiry has thus far failed to disclose where this money is, or why the state is not drawing interest on it. This alone represents a clean loss to the state of \$4,000 per year.

In regard to the attorney general's department, the records show that that department has not alone been extravagant, but has made excessive demands on the treasury.

The constitution expressly provides that the attorney general shall receive a salary of \$2,000 a year and no more. It declares further, that nothing shall be allowed that department for deputies or clerk hire. The records show how openly this has been disregarded. The following figures show to what extent the treasury has been milked during the present term of two years:

Attorney general	\$4,000
W. D. Oldham	3,600
Assistant attorney	2,400
Stenographer	2,000
Printing briefs	800
Postage, telegraph, telephone, etc.	900
Traveling expenses	600

Though this is a much larger amount than was ever before required by the attorney general's department, it, even, was not sufficient. The records show that the \$5,000 "prosecution fund" placed at the disposal of the governor has been attacked and of this amount nearly \$4,000 has been used, a portion of it as follows:

C. J. Smyth	\$647.93
W. D. Oldham	55.20
Ed P. Smith	627.80
G. M. Corcoran	287.80

Other allowances have been made in addition to this, so that upon the whole this department under the present administration has been the most extravagant and expensive in the state's history.

More or less odium is attached to the land commissioner's department. The manner in which building contracts have been awarded and executed almost approaches a public scandal. Certain contractors have been awarded contracts and have signally failed to properly fulfill them, yet after having failed at one place the board has turned right around and awarded them contracts at another. In some instances the bondsmen of the contractors have been required to complete the work and in each and all instances the state has sustained pecuniary loss.

Contracts for groceries and provisions are now largely awarded to Lincoln parties, attending which action is circumstantial evidence of rank favoritism. These contracts have been manipulated in the interest of the friends of the state house ring at Lincoln, and against the interest of the business

men of the towns in which the institutions are located. Commissioner Wolf and Governor Poynter are directly responsible for this, as the former is chairman of the board of public lands and buildings and the latter chairman of the state board of purchase and supplies, boards that have direct charge of these matters.

It may be claimed by the state house officials, in justification of their acts, that the state is getting its groceries and supplies cheaper on this account. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In the first place, the way business is managed, prices become a secondary issue. The principal issue now is that of weight and quality. There is scarcely an institution that has a weighing scale, and there is scarcely an official at any of the institutions competent to judge as to quality.



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