

STAND UP FOR NEBRASKA.

EX-GOV. THAYER DOES SO IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW.

He Devotes Some Time and Attention to the Editor of the Omaha Bee, Alleging that He Has No Weight in Nebraska Politics and that Charges Against the Republican Nominee for Governor are Without Foundation—How Nebraska Institutions are Run and the Favorable Condition Under Which the People Live.

[From the Chicago Tribune.]

Gen. John M. Thayer, ex-governor of Nebraska, makes reply to the attack made upon him and other republican leaders of his state by Editor Rosewater of the Omaha Bee. Gen. Thayer has kept silent so far, but being in Chicago Saturday he granted an interview to a reporter for The Tribune in which he makes an extended statement of the state of political affairs in Nebraska. Gen. Thayer has lived in Nebraska forty-one years and ten months. Thirty-six years ago he was one of a group of men who met in a hotel in Omaha and formed the republican party of Nebraska. He has been a leader ever since and has fought hard in every campaign. He was colonel of the First Nebraska regiment during the early part of the civil war and afterwards attained the rank of brigadier general. He has sat in the senate of the United States, representing Nebraska; he was four years territorial governor of Wyoming and five years governor of his own state. So what Gen. Thayer has to say of Nebraska politics may be considered to have some weight. He thinks the republicans will carry the state and keep on carrying it despite internal fights, or populists and democrats. He says:

"The populist party in Nebraska has steadily declined in numerical strength and political force since its first state campaign four years ago. The partial fusion of the populists and democrats, which has resulted in two populist congressmen, one populist United States senator, and the controlling power in the lower house of the last two legislatures, has been unsatisfactory to both the parties. The conduct of Senator Allen and Congressman McKeighan at the national capital is galling to the self-respecting democrats who assisted in their election, and the disposition of the populists, in the division of the spoils, to have 'the whole hog or none,' makes further fusion between them, to any considerable extent, unpracticable, so that republicans will not only elect a working majority for the next legislature and a republican successor to Gen. Manderson, but the entire republican state ticket with an increased plurality over recent years.

"Two years ago republican state officers were elected by pluralities ranging from 15,000 to 22,000. The republican plurality on governor was only 9,000, owing to the fact that the Omaha Bee, which generally handicaps any candidate which it assumes to support, had made itself officious in his behalf. This year, in the increased republican pluralities, Thomas J. Majors, republican candidate for governor, will head the list. There is a unity of action and an enthusiasm for the whole ticket, and especially the head of the ticket, such as we have not seen for years.

"Col Majors is an interesting figure in our state politics. Like Jerry Rusk, of Wisconsin, a plain-mannered man, a thrifty farmer, public-spirited and kind of heart, with a record of five years of gallant service as an officer in the war of the rebellion, with twenty years of experience in public life as congressman, legislator, lieutenant-governor; a forceful and magnetic campaigner for years over the state, knowing personally nearly every voter, he occupies a position of prominence and advantage peculiar to himself. No other man in Nebraska knows personally so many of our people, and no other man can go out among our voters and call to his aid so many personal friends and so many loyal followers. His personal following and political force have been supplemented and emphasized from year to year by the bitter personal attacks and misrepresentations of the Omaha Bee, which is a sort of free lance politically, occupying about the same position in politics as the gorilla leader on the border line between the north and south during the war. It has no patriotic instincts that make it loyal to any party or cause. Its instinct is to fight, to oppose, and it settles as the objects for its attack such men, such measures, and such material interests of the state as will make its owner most conspicuous and best serve the purpose of a sensational newspaper.

"Now, so far as Nebraska republicanism is concerned and the result of the coming election in that state, it is not necessary to refute any statement the editor of the Bee may make personally or anything he may publish in his paper derogatory to our state ticket. His sensational methods are so well known, charging bribery, fraud, bootlegging, railroadism and many other such patent phrases on which his mind seems to dwell, that he no longer has power to influence votes and is a factor in our politics only as one who carries about from one campaign into another a hoarded mass of stale charges which he has been accumulating for the last twenty years.

"I would not refer to his action in opposing republicanism and supporting the populist state ticket in this campaign only for the fact that he has seen fit to air all his old grievances in a recent interview in the Tribune and put before the whole country a story of bootlegging, railroadism and corruption in official life that grossly slanders our state and the character of our people. Let me tell you something about Nebraska and the kind of people we are. We have a million and a quarter people, gathered from Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin and other states, equal in average intelligence, in common honesty, in personal energy, in public spirit and patriotism to the people of any state in the Union. In the systems in vogue in our public schools, colleges and universities we surpass many of the older states. In Lincoln, the capital of the state, where I live, we have not only the state university, which ranks as one of the foremost of its kind in the

northwest, but three other large sectarian universities, besides two of the best normal colleges in the west, and many other smaller institutions of learning, bringing together the youth of our state from the farm and home of the people, 4,000 to 5,000 annually. Lincoln is known as a city of universities and the state is known throughout the entire Union as one representing in the character of its people the best types of American commonwealths. Our material progress for the last twenty years, the thrifty and substantial character of our farmers, the enterprise and rapid growth of our cities, and the splendid energy and efficiency of our railroad system are too well known to the American people to need more than a passing mention. In our state institutions, such as the normal schools, our hospitals for the insane, industrial schools, blind asylums, penitentiary and other institutions in this line, fifteen in number, our citizens take a just pride, not only because we are well supplied as a state in all these matters, that the building of these institutions are well equipped and all paid for, but that they are managed and controlled under republican state administrations efficiently, honestly, and economically.

"HOW NEBRASKA INSTITUTIONS ARE RUN. "These institutions are conducted by two boards composed of state officers, including the governor of the state, the state treasurer, the attorney-general, and the commissioner of public lands and buildings. All supplies for the several state institutions are bought by the board of supplies, of which the governor is chairman, upon competitive bids submitted for the period of one month to the several dealers of the state and if for any reason any supplies are needed that are not included in the estimate and provided for in the contract the superintendents of the different institutions are obliged, under the rules of the board, to submit a requisition to that board for its approval or rejection before any additional supplies are permitted to be purchased. These supplies are paid for on vouchers which are submitted to the board of public lands and buildings after they have been examined, approved, and duly certified to by the superintendent of the institution for which the purchases were made. The superintendent, under the rules of the board, is obliged to personally see that the articles have been delivered, as the case may be, at the institution, and each item carefully checked, and his certificate of approval indorsed upon the vouchers.

"Nearly all of the states have what is known as the trustee system for the government of their benevolent institutions. That system never gained a foothold in Nebraska, and the governor of Illinois not long since called attention to the fact that the appropriations made in his state for the several institutions were drawn by the board of trustees, and that practically there was no check upon the board, and he recommended the establishment of a system founded practically upon the system that has been in vogue in Nebraska for several years. True it is that during the session of the legislature, composed largely of populists, in the winter of 1893, six officials and ex-officials of the state were impeached, the charges being that supplies had been paid for on the certificate of the superintendent of some of the institutions that had not actually been furnished. It is also true that the charges made against these officials were made by the Omaha Bee, and that when the legislature came to consider those charges those officials addressed a communication to the legislature denying any connection whatever with the same, and demanding that the articles of impeachment as prepared be adopted in order that they might be given an opportunity to vindicate themselves before the people. At their request the articles were adopted. As to three ex-officials the case was dismissed and as to the other three a trial was had, resulting in their acquittal.

"It is also true that under the charges made by the Omaha Bee the democratic prosecuting attorney of Lancaster county had the court of that county call a grand jury to inquire into the alleged swindling of the state by certain contractors and employes at the hospital for the insane at Lincoln. A large number of indictments were found, not against the superintendents of the asylum, nor against any of the state officials. Thirteen of these indictments were tried by the democratic prosecuting attorney before a jury in Lancaster county, each of which resulted in the acquittal of the party charged, and the indictments were nulled by the state's attorney.

"I cannot go into detail and point out the many favorable conditions under which our people live and prosper, and only refer casually to the matter because Mr. Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, has seen fit in the interview referred to to assail in a general way the reputation of our people and the general character of the state, by making it appear that official corruption and railroad domination control and are endorsed by the republican party. Whatever is wise and expedient in our state constitution and our statutory laws; whatever is broad and progressive in the general management of our state and public affairs; whatever has conducted to the general prosperity and upward evolution of our people, is due largely to the fact that republican thought and republican energy have dominated and controlled the state from its earliest history; and in my judgment our future prosperity and financial credit rest secure in the assurance that the republican party will continue to lead the destinies of our people.

"MUCH THAT IS CLAPTRAP. "Because a populist legislature made up of irresponsible men bent on a general upheaval of all social and economic conditions had discovered the misappropriation of a few carloads of coal by a subordinate in one of the asylums and had thereupon sought to impeach republican state officials and the whole republican party in general, Mr. Rosewater would have you believe that the people are ready to turn the state over to the populists and institute in our state government such conditions of confusion and general discredit as have humiliated and disgraced Colorado, Kansas, South Carolina, and other populist-ridden states.

"Let me tell you that all this claptrap about railroad domination, bootlegging, impeached state officials, and the importing of lewd women to debauch and corrupt the youth of the state, is without effect for the last fifteen years. "There are four distinct and separate

factions in our present state campaign. The republican party, backed by the business interests of the state, by the manufacturing interests of the state, by the railroad interests of the state, by the thrifty and intelligent farmers of the state, by the industrious and home-loving artisans and workmen of the state, and by the law and order loving people of the commonwealth, are determined that the best thought, the most patriotic and progressive mind force shall control in the future as in the past, so that when the present financial cloud shall be lifted from our land we will be in a position to attract emigration and capital and renew the activity and progress of former years. That is one element in this campaign. Then there is the populist element now being chaperoned by a 'cyclone' from Texas, Cyclone Davis, I think they call him. We have 'Cyclone' Bryan and a few other 'cyclones' of our own, but it seems that Texas is oversupplied with these professional 'cyclones' and is sending us a few in a sort of missionary spirit. Then there is the democratic element, somewhat disfigured and disheartened, but still in the ring, and last, least, but not pedantic and somewhat conspicuous personally, is Rosewater of the Omaha Bee. He is an element in and of himself, and if he had a following would be taken into account in estimating the result of our elections. He aspires to be a little Napoleon in his way and glories in his prowess as a fighter. I only wish he might find a better way to use his energies than in fighting the republican party and in going away from home to slander and misrepresent our state. His instincts are to attack and tear down, regardless of consequences, only so he may be conspicuous. If he cannot be loved and respected as a leader he will be feared as a destroyer. Like Lady Teazle, he would rather be thought ill of than not to be thought of at all.

"WEAK SPOTS IN THE EDITOR'S ARMOR. "Railroad domination in politics has been one of his chief hobbies for the last fifteen years. He has hurled this at republican candidates and public men continually. On the railroad question his actions have been peculiar, and for that reason what he says on that subject has but little effect among the people. For instance, a couple of years ago he went to Salt Lake City and in a full page interview advocated the canceling of the second mortgage on the Union Pacific road, and the facts and figures in this interview, which must have been furnished him by some one on the inside of the business department of that road, were afterwards used for lobbying purposes at Washington. Since that time he has behaved in a friendly way toward that corporation, but has sought to maintain his reputation as a railroad fighter by still more furious attacks on the Burlington. He now charges that Col. Majors, republican candidate for governor, was nominated through the domination of the Burlington. As to this, it is well known that two years ago Majors was defeated for the republican nomination for governor and that the Burlington made no secret of its preference for Gov. Crouse, who was nominated and elected.

"At that time Mr. Rosewater was bobbing in and out of the Burlington headquarters, consulting their officials and making himself officious in behalf of Gov. Crouse and against Majors. Notwithstanding his bitter opposition to Majors, which was characterized by the continued publication of all these matters which he now charges, Col. Majors was put upon the state ticket and elected as lieutenant-governor by the highest plurality on the whole ticket. The candidacy of Col. Majors for governor had invited and aroused the energy of his party and put into the old soldier element of the state an enthusiasm such as we have not seen for years. I first met Tom Majors as a lieutenant in my regiment, the First Nebraska, at the beginning of the war. He was then a young man of 19. He was under my eye at Donelson, Shiloh, and other battles of the war. He was conspicuous during the five years of his service for personal bravery, popularity, and for his fine executive force in handling men.

"I want to say in conclusion that no state in the Union has made a better record for devotion to the republican party and good government than Nebraska, and when the republicans of Nebraska indorse a man for governor of the state with such enthusiasm as they are now indorsing Tom Majors, it is a certificate of character that any American citizen might be proud of, and the attempt to traduce him at this time will only stimulate the activity of his party, increase his popularity and add to the contempt already felt for his traducer."

"Some Queer Epitaphs. Epitaphs can be termed ridiculous and nonsensical as happily 'few and far between,' though not so rare as we must wish. On the headstone of William Rymour, Opar Fife, Scotland, we read:

Through Christ I am not inferior To William the Conqueror!

Quite true, but rather a far-fetched comparison. The following is simple, at all events, and is to be found in West Churchyard, Tranent, Scotland:

Trumpets shall sound, archangels cry, Come forth, Isabel Mitchell, and meet William Mathison in the sky.

Here is a very precise inscription on a soldier, in the kirkyard of Dumfries:

Here lies Andrew Macpherson, Who was a peculiar person; He stood six foot two Without his shoes, And was slew At Waterloo.

The next is less communicative:

Here lies the body of Jane Carthow, Born at St. Columb, died at St. Cue; Children she had five, Three are dead and two alive; Those that are dead choosing rather To die with their mother than live with their father.

Stranger—What price do you set on that red cow of yours? Mr. Haiceda—See here, mister, air your an assessor, or has she been run over by the railroad?

Rambler—That Bartlett girl thinks a grand deal of me. When I told her I was going around the world she asked me to be sure and write her from every place I visited. Wilter—Yes; she is collecting postage stamps.

THE BARBER SHOP.

LESSON IN POLITICS LEARNED THROUGH LATHER.

Democratic Hard Times Compelled Home Hair Cutting—Sorry Jobs Performed by Amateurs—Men Without Wages Forced to Small Economies.

I have just come from Terre Haute, Ind., where I had occasion to get shaved, and dropped into the barber shop of Harry Freers. After seating myself comfortably I naturally started the conversation by inquiring "How is business?"

The barber had just begun to lather my face and he stopped suddenly, looking straight at me and saying: "I have been asked that question so much for the last year that it has made me think. People coming here to get shaved or have their hair cut have asked 'How is business?' and when business is good we will say, 'Oh, pretty good,' or 'good' and think nothing of it; but it may be that because times have been different that I have thought more of the question, and I will tell you I have been looking it up."

"What do you mean by looking it up?" I asked him.

"Well," was the reply, "my customers inquire if the hard times have affected my business—the barber business. Some of them said that if hard times affected the grocery trade they thought it would affect the barber business as well. They told me that people had to eat, but they did not eat so much as when times were good. Now, this set me a thinking."



Week ending.	1891.	1893.	1894.
April 7.....	\$18.35	\$11.10	\$8.45
" 14.....	22.80	9.35	8.55
" 21.....	22.60	9.40	8.70
" 28.....	23.75	10.10	8.65

Total four weeks, \$87.50 \$39.95 \$34.15

"Thank you," I said, "I should be glad to."

"Now, last April," continued the barber, "I took in as little as 40 cents for one day's work, and that is pretty small earnings for this great country." "Yes, indeed," I said, "when you have to pay your rent and all expenses out of it."

"Now, take another case," the barber went on. "Last week I had four customers who came in to get their hair cut. They did not look as if these democratic times had been agreeing with them. I could tell at a glance that some one had tried to cut their hair before they came to me. In one case I had to get the clippers and cut the hair off close to the scalp. It had been so jagged around, probably by the man's wife at home, in their effort to save the price of a hair cut."

"This is positively surprising," I said: "This makes one feel that the people must be much more sorely pressed for money than I ever thought."

"Yes, sir. All the years I have been in business this is my first experience of hard times, and I do hope it will be the last. No more democratic free trade for me." B. THINKER.

"Tariff Reform." "Well, what has been your experience?" "My experience is that it is the same way with the shaving business as it is with the grocery business. People don't get shaved so often, and they let their hair grow longer before getting it cut."

"Is that so?" I ejaculated.

"Yes, sir, that is so. I wouldn't have thought it or noticed it but for people constantly asking me, so I looked it up and turned to my books, and you can see for yourself."

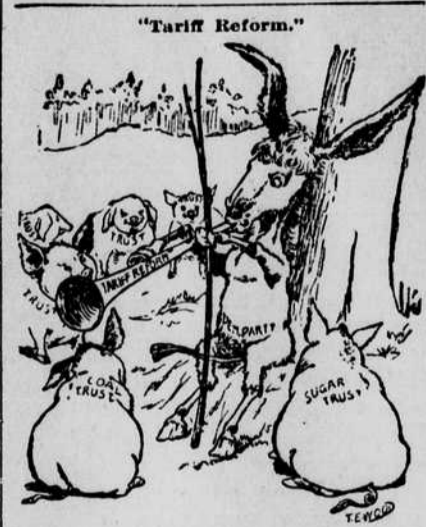
After a little more conversation of this sort I got out of the chair, and

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the barber produced his books, there being no other customers, and he said: "Now, the month of April is supposed to be a very good month for barbering. Why, I don't know, but it always used to be with me. Now, here are my receipts during April,

1891, for each week. You see they were from \$18.35 during the first week up to \$23.75 during the last week in April, 1891. Now turn over; let us look at last year. Here, in all the four weeks of April I did not earn \$40, and my best week was \$11.10. I earned more money in any two weeks in April, 1891, than I did in the whole month of April, 1893."

"That is surprising!" I ejaculated. "Yes, sir, and it surprised me too when I began to figure up. Now take this year. Business was even worse. I only earned \$34.15 during the whole of April this year, and I did not earn



\$9 in any single week of the month, whereas in 1891 there was only one week that I earned as little as double that amount. Last April I earned only \$34.15, and in April, 1891, I earned \$87.50, or more than 'twice and a half times as much."

"I should never have thought that anything of that sort was possible," I said.

"No more would I," replied the barber; "but here are my books, and you can turn them over for any month you like. There are lots of people who believe that the tariff has nothing to do with the barber trade, but these figures have shown you proof that it has. You can take a copy of them if you like, and take them along with you."

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