

TOM MAJORS' RECORD.

Read the Record of the Republican Candidate for Governor as a Legislator.

ALWAYS A FRIEND OF LABOR.

The Long List of Bills for Working Men and Against Combinations Supported by Mr. Majors.

Thomas J. Majors was a member of the state senate of Nebraska in 1887, and while a member numerous bills were introduced which were of particular benefit and interest to all mechanics and laborers of the state of Nebraska. It has been charged that Governor Majors is not the friend of labor. For the purpose of refuting this charge his legislative official record should be presumed to be the very best record to show what the political history of the individual was and is, and it certainly is better evidence than the mere idle street or newspaper gossip which is generally circulated against a candidate before the election.

Read for yourselves. Judge of Governor Majors from his past official life and record, the truth of all of which you can readily verify yourselves by reference to the official reported proceedings of the senate of Nebraska for the year 1887, which are contained in the senate journal, which is obtainable at the office of the secretary of state, or at any of the public libraries of the state.

TO AID MECHANICS AND LABORERS. Senate file No. 6, introduced in the senate of Nebraska in 1887, was a bill for an act to aid mechanics and laborers in the satisfaction of liens and to amend section 4 of article 1, chapter 54, of the compiled statutes of Nebraska, entitled "Mechanics and Laborers' Liens," and to repeal said original section.

Governor Majors, then a senator from Nemaha county, voted "Yes" for this bill.

EIGHT HOUR LAW. Again, at the same session, senate file No. 194 was introduced, being a bill for an act to constitute eight hours a day's labor, and to amend section 1, chapter 90, of the compiled statutes of Nebraska.

Governor Majors, then a senator from Nemaha county, voted "Yes" for this bill.

Mechanics and laborers who resided in Nebraska in the year 1887 know that this law was enacted for them and them alone.

But you can go further and by an examination of the senate journal of 1887, you will find that the interest of laborers and mechanics was further considered, and that had the bill become a law there would have been a remedy provided by law whereby all controversies between laborers and corporations could have been adjusted by arbitration.

ARBITRATE OLD CONTROVERSIES. Senate file 23. A bill for an act to provide for the arbitration of controversies between laborers and corporations.

This bill provided that any citizen of the United States, resident of the state of Nebraska, in the employ of any railroad, telegraph or other corporation, doing business in the state of Nebraska, having a controversy with and feeling himself aggrieved by the action of such corporation, its officers or agents as to the amount of his wages, the time of the payment thereof, the hours of labor, the severity of his labor, the unhealthfulness or changes of his employment, or the manner of his treatment, could have such controversy and grievance settled and determined by arbitration. That any employe being unable to settle his controversy with such employer by mutual agreement and desiring to arbitrate the same, could file his complaint under oath in writing with the county judge of the county in which he resides, setting forth therein the name of his employer, and the particulars of his demands, grievances and controversy, and asking that the same be settled by arbitration. The bill further provided for a hearing and the issuance of a summons as in civil actions, returnable in not less than three days; that at the time of hearing the plaintiff should select one, the defendant one and the county judge one person, all citizens of the county, as arbitrators to hear and determine the controversy; the arbitrators to be sworn to make a true award according to the law and the evidence, under the direction of the county judge; that when the evidence was concluded the arbitrators were to be kept together under the charge of an officer of the court until the award was agreed upon, award to be in writing and returned to the county judge who was directed to enter the same upon his docket, and then enter judgment in accordance therewith, and that if the defendant corporation failed or neglected to comply with the terms or requirements of the award and final judgment entered within the time fixed by the county judge, such corporation was to be found guilty of an offense and forfeit and pay not less than \$50, nor more than \$200, such forfeiture to be paid into the school fund of the county, as in other cases of misdemeanor, and also be liable to the plaintiff for all damages sustained by him thereby.

Governor Majors, then a senator from Nemaha county, voted "Yes" for this bill.

This bill passed the senate and was sent to the house of representatives, where it was reported for passage on the fifty-ninth day of the session, and again reported on the special roll of the house for passage on the sixty-second day of the session, but was not reached in the house before adjournment.

USURIOUS MORTGAGES TO BE VOID. While still a senator, Governor Majors voted yes to pass senate file 160—a bill for an act to make chattel mortgages and bills of sale given to secure usurious contracts absolutely void. This bill should have become a law. It was aimed at short time loan agents who were taking advantage of the poor man's necessities to extort usurious rates of interest. Senator Majors was a warm supporter of this measure to render all such contracts absolutely void.

AGAINST POOLING PRICES. Senate file 32, which also received

Senator Majors' support, was a bill to prohibit grain dealers, partnerships, companies, corporations or associations from combining or entering into any agreement or contract to pool or fix the price to be paid for grain, hogs, cattle or stock of any kind, and to provide punishment for so doing of a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment in jail of county not exceeding six months, or both, and also to be liable to the party injured in civil action.

TO PROTECT DEPOSITORS. Senator Majors also voted for the passage of senate file No. 34, a bill to provide for punishment of a person receiving deposits in or cashing indebtedness by any bank or banking institution with knowledge of the insolvency of such banking institution, and which bill provided a penalty in case of conviction of imprisonment in the penitentiary of not less than one nor more than ten years.

ELECTION OF SENATOR BY DIRECT VOTE. Senator Majors advocated and voted for the passage of senate file No. 53, which was a memorial and joint resolution relating to and urging upon congress the submission of a constitutional amendment to the United States constitution, submitting the election of United States senators to a direct vote of the people.

PASSAGE OF THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE LAW. Senator Majors also advocated and voted for senate file No. 11, memorial and joint resolution urging upon congress the immediate passage of the interstate commerce law.

IN FAVOR OF TAXING SLEEPING CARS. He also voted for the passage of senate file 163, a bill to tax sleeping cars and dining cars.

EXEMPTION OF POLL OR LABOR TAX. He also voted for the passage of senate file 249, a bill for an act to exempt soldiers, sailors and marines who were in the service of the United States during the war of the rebellion, and who are now disabled, from poll or labor tax.

UNIFORM FREIGHT AND PASSENGER RATES. He also voted for the passage of senate file 8, memorial and joint resolution asking congress to establish uniform freight and passenger rates on railroads, and to prevent unjust discrimination and extortion on lines of railroads from Nebraska to Chicago and to commercial cities of eastern states.

NO ATTACHMENT OF PENSION MONEY. He also voted for the passage of senate file 259, a bill to exempt from levy and sale on execution or attachment all pension money and property purchased and improved exclusively therewith of the soldiers, sailors and marines who were disabled in the service of the United States.

THREE CENT A MILE RATE. He also voted for the passage of senate file No. 4, a bill to fix the maximum rate of charges and to fix passenger rates at three cents per mile.

In 1889 Governor Majors was a member of the house of representatives of Nebraska from Nemaha county. During this session many bills were introduced for the purpose of looting the public treasury of the state and a great many members of the house who were opposed to extravagant and unjust legislation formed a combine which was known as the "Farmers' Combine," whose object was to solidly oppose any legislation which would in any manner be termed extravagant and unjust to the tax paying people of the state. This combine consisted of republicans, democrats and some independents. Mr. Majors was chairman and leader of this so-called "combine."

Among the bills defeated by the efforts of this "combine" was one to appropriate \$20,000 to pay for the expenses of sending the Nebraska National Guard to New York city to assist in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of Washington. A strong effort was made to pass this bill, but by the efforts of Mr. Majors and his friends it was defeated.

PROHIBITING POOLING ON LUMBER, COAL, ETC.

Governor Majors while a member of the house of representatives voted for the passage of House Roll No. 6, a bill to prohibit lumber dealers, coal dealers, corporations, companies, partnerships, corporations or associations from entering into any contract or agreement, or combining to pool or fix the price at which lumber, coal, goods or stocks of any kind whatever should be sold, and to provide punishment for violations of same.

The bill was of special interest to the working classes of people in this state and was for their protection against extortionate prices for all such articles, and was a bill that particularly interested the farmers of the state.

FAVORED PAYMENT OF WAGES ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

There had been many complaints that the general mechanics' lien law then in force was inadequate to protect mechanics and laborers who worked on public buildings, therefore House Roll 42 was introduced and its passage favored by Mr. Majors. The bill was entitled "An act to secure the payment of mechanics and laborers' wages on all public buildings," where the provisions of the mechanics' lien law does not apply.

Governor Majors, while a member of the house of representatives, favored the passage of House Roll No. 121.

TO PROTECT EARNINGS OF LABORERS.

A bill for an act to provide for the better protection of the earnings of laborers, servants and other employes of corporations, firms or individuals engaged in inter-state business.

This is the law which protects railway and other employes from having their earnings, while working for railway companies or other persons garnished by collection firms in other states and has been a very beneficial law for workmen working for corporations in this state.

MAXIMUM RATE BILLS.

He supported the passage of House Roll No. 45, a bill for an act to regulate railroads, to classify freights, to fix reasonable maximum rates to be charged for the transportation of freight upon each of the railroads in the state of Nebraska, to increase the powers and further define the duties of the board of transportation and to punish violations thereof.

He supported the passage of House Roll 45, a bill introduced by Hon. C. L. Hall, (now Judge Hall of the district court of Lancaster county), which was the most direct and clean cut rate reduction bill ever before any session of

the legislature, and the only one before a session in which Mr. Majors had a vote.

It was a maximum rate bill, substantially the same as the "Newberry Bill." The bill was introduced and read the first time Jan. 8, 1889, and passed the house (of which Mr. Majors was a member), March 26, 1889, but the bill failed in the senate. (See house journal session 1889, page 1843.)

FAVORED THE IRRIGATION LAW.

He voted for House Roll 355, which became a law, entitled "an act to provide for water rights and irrigation, and to regulate the right to the use of water for agricultural and manufacturing purposes."

UNITED STATES MILITARY POST.

He voted for the passage of House Roll 433, granting the consent of the state of Nebraska to the purchase or condemnation by the United States of a tract of land in Sarpy, Washington or Douglas counties for a military post and reservation and ceding jurisdiction thereof to the United States.

WARRANTS DECLARED "STATE SECURITIES."

When the legislature of 1890 convened it was ascertained that a large sum of money had accumulated in the state treasury to the credit of the permanent "school fund." It amounted to several hundred thousand dollars, and because of the failure of the "Board of Educational Lands and Funds" (consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, and Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings) to find suitable investment for this money, it was remaining idle in the state treasury, and of no use to any one except the state treasurer.

The constitution of the state provides "that the school fund should not be invested in anything, except in United States securities, or registered county bonds of this state." The board had a short time previous decided that state warrants drawing interest were not "State securities" within the meaning of the state constitution. At this time there was a very large number of state warrants held in New York and Philadelphia, which had been endorsed by the state treasurer, "presented and not paid for want of funds," and these were under the law drawing seven per cent interest. To save this interest to the school fund Governor Majors, then a member of the house of representatives, on January 10, 1889, introduced the following resolution, House Roll 107:

"Whereas a question has been raised as to the proper interpretation of the constitution of the state of Nebraska. Therefore, be it resolved, That state warrants, when endorsed by the state treasurer, 'presented and not paid for want of funds,' are state securities under the meaning of article 8, section 9, of the constitution of the state of Nebraska."

On January 12, 1889, Mr. Majors offered the following resolution:

"Resolved by the house of representatives of the State of Nebraska, That the supreme court of the state are hereby requested to furnish this body with an opinion setting forth whether or not state warrants drawing interest are state securities under article 8, section 9, of the state constitution."

The resolution prevailed, and the supreme court rendered an affirmative decision, by reason of which thousands of dollars was saved to the permanent school fund.

WORLD-HERALD COMMENDS MAJORS.

The Omaha World says Majors saved the state \$52,500 a year interest alone by the introduction of the foregoing bill.

From Omaha World, January 21, 1889: "Tom Majors introduced a joint resolution the other day which seems to have attracted slight attention considering the importance of the subject. There is an idle school fund in the state aggregating about three-quarters of a million dollars. There are also unpaid state warrants aggregating a similar amount drawing interest at 7 per cent. The constitution says that the fund may be used in the purchase of United States government bonds, of county bonds registered, or in the purchase of state securities. The question is, Is a state warrant a state security? If so, Mr. Majors and his followers are in favor of applying the idle school fund to the defrayment of the warranted indebtedness, and thus saving to the state in interest an annuity of \$52,500. The resolution aimed to declare the state warrant a state security, but as the matter, after investigation, seemed to rest with the interpretation of the constitution, and as it appeared that the legislature possessed no jurisdiction the resolution was withdrawn, and an opinion solicited from the supreme court. If that tribunal shall decide that a state warrant is a state security the money of the school fund shall be used to call in the warrants, the banks of Nebraska will lose a pretty penny, and the state treasurer who receives from the banks the interest on state deposits, will have to curtail his personal expenses for a few thousands a year."

AGAINST A PRISON CONTRACT.

Majors was in favor of the repeal of the act extending the "prison contract" from Stout to Mosher. The Omaha World of January 23, 1889, says: "Representative Majors of Nemaha introduced a very innocent looking bill. It simply provided for the repeal of chapter 86 of the session laws of 1887. Turning to this chapter a little surprise party is presented. Chapter 86 is the bill passed by the last legislature extending the W. H. B. Stout 'prison contract' to C. W. Mosher. Mr. Majors said to your correspondent that he thought this act would cancel the contract; that the measure was a most iniquitous and corrupt measure, and the state could not too quickly endeavor to right the great wrong. He thought something could be done.

The Herald, Omaha, Friday, March 22, 1889, says: "House Roll 244 is Majors' bill repealing chapter 86 of the session laws of 1887. This affects section 48 of the law as it stands in the compiled statutes, which provides for the extension of the contract of C. W. Mosher for the care and labor of the convicts in the state penitentiary. By this contract 40 cents per day is paid by the state for the care of each convict. The contract was originally made to W. H. B. Stout, and was by him transferred and assigned to Mosher. Majors' bill seeks to destroy the act extending this contract ten years beyond the time it was originally to run, which was to October, 1889."

This bill was indefinitely postponed by the house upon report of the committee on March 22, 1889.

REPUBLICAN DOCTRINE.

MR. HOLMAN.

The Indiana Objector in the Roll of Counsel Representative.

For many years the Hon. Wm. S. Holman, of Indiana, has posed in the house of representatives as the "watch-dog of the treasury; falling heir to that title when the original "watch-dog of the treasury," Hon. Elihu B. Washburn, of Illinois, retired from congress in 1869.

He has for years been known as the great "objector" of the house of representatives, and while it is undoubtedly true that during the long period of his congressional service he has prevented the passage of many private claims that possibly should not have had a favorable report, it is equally true and beyond all question that he has objected to and prevented the passage of hundreds of as honest, just and meritorious claims as were ever presented to congress.

Every speaker of the house of representatives, from 1861 to date, from Galusha A. Grow to Charles F. Crisp, has known the inconsistent and hypocritical character of Judge Holman's opposition to private claims and has so expressed himself either publicly or privately, none with more positiveness and vehemence than Speakers Kerr, Randall, Carlisle and Crisp, all sturdy democrats. His "wobbling" and tricky course in this regard was fully exposed in the 51st congress by Speaker Reed, and has from time to time been ventilated by the Washington correspondents of leading democratic papers. For a few years past, Judge Holman has changed his tactics as to private claims. He has always been "willing to wound and yet afraid to strike." And so has instigated and invited other members—usually men of no character or standing—to do the "objecting," while he would privately furnish the reasons or arguments against the bill. There are today on the files of congress, or on its calendars, hundreds of just and meritorious claims which have been "objected" to, congress after congress, by Judge Holman, who as the record will show, has passed or assisted in passing scores of unworthy claims, involving hundreds of thousands of dollars.

He has specially posed as the enemy of "war claims," particularly of that class which asked for property destroyed in battle or by the lawless and wanton acts of troops, or as a military necessity. All this class of claims under the recognized principles of international law and never paid, for the reason that no obligation to pay for property so destroyed is recognized as existing. A few such cases, as for instance college, university and school buildings, churches, hospitals, etc., have, as a matter of grace and public policy been made exceptions, but they have been placed entirely on that ground.

The bill was H. R. 7993 for the relief of J. and O. P. Cobb & Co. and approved the sum of \$5,441.00 to pay said claimants for certain barges and flatboats loaded with hay, which were destroyed by a U. S. gunboat by order of General Hayle during the Morgan raid of 1863 to prevent said hay from being used by General Morgan's command. Judge Holman passed a bill through the house of representatives of the 38th congress paying for both the hay and barges, but the senate—liberal as it is—refused to pay for the barges which had been contracted for by the government. Even the senators did not ask payment for the barges and flatboats which were the private property of Messrs. J. & O. P. Cobb & Co. The bill in question had been reported by the very liberal war claims committee of the house, though constantly impugned by Judge Holman so to do.

On the contrary the records of the committee show that the sub-committee reported it adversely to the full committee and that by the special request of Judge Holcom it was "laid over" for the present session. The request was made by Judge Holman immediately after the reading of the journal on August 27, the day before the final adjournment, when there were by actual count, made by an officer of the house, but twenty-seven members present, a count by tellers some time later, on a public matter of importance, showing the presence of but eighty members, compelling the withdrawal of the measure and the adjournment of the house. Judge Holman pleaded long and earnestly with Messrs. Marsh of Illinois and other members to withdraw their objections, but in vain. Not a single member of the committee on war claims was present, there was great noise and confusion in the hall, the clerk read rapidly and indistinctly and if most any other member than Judge Holman had preferred the request it is probable that the claim would have "slipped through." But Judge Holman is so obnoxious to members by reason of his insincere, tricky and hypocritical course in respect to private claims, that no request of his for unanimous consent is ever granted.

He stated in preferring the request that it was "a great many years since I have asked the house to consider a private bill." Why then this urgency in the closing hours of a session with but twenty-seven members present—not one being a member of the committee on war claims—to pass a bill which had not only not been reported favorably by said committee, but which instead had been reported unfavorably by a sub-committee and "laid over" for the session, as a favor to Judge Holman?

The answer may possibly be found in the response made by Judge Holman to Mr. Marsh of Illinois, who asked why he (Holman) objected to sending the case to the court of claims. Says Judge Holman:

"Sending the case to that court would involve time and expense, and my clients are too old and too poor to bear that."

It may seem incredible that Judge Holman should thus publicly advertise his attorneyship, but there is the language in the Record of that day's proceedings, page 10,407, lines 4 and 5 of the first column.

Comment is unnecessary, for no language could do the subject justice.

Wilson Among the Lords.

The Honorable William Wilson, the father of the sugar trust tariff, who recently made a show of himself in the presence of the nobility of Great Britain, took occasion at a banquet given by the lords of London, to belittle his own country and his own people. A prominent paper of his own state—West Virginia, says of him: "No American public man of any party has ever made

such a spectacle of himself as Mr. Wilson has. If anything were needed to defeat him besides his record in his career a fortnight ago in England."

A prominent democrat of his own state said of him a few days ago: "Look at the spectacle. On the one hand Wilson is being lauded and boasted of as banqueting in Great Britain for what he has attempted to do, and what he promises yet to do in the way of reducing tariff; and on the other hand American reduction of wages everywhere strikes misery, starvation and the word is sent from your great city of Pittsburgh today that every tin-plate manufacturer in the United States has shut down on account of the reduction of work-in-plant, throwing thousands of workmen out of employment, and the great loss turning into other channels millions of capital invested."

This is the man whom the democrats propose to elect in the second West Virginia district to be again placed at the head of the most important committee of the lower house of congress.

SUGAR SCANDAL.

Some of the Results of the Passage of the Democratic Tariff Law Seen from the Standpoint of a Disinterested Observer.

After the Brice-Gorman bill had passed the house the prediction was made by many prominent democrats that the price of sugar would not advance. The reason given was that the sugar trust law, like the sword of Democles, was suspended over the trust, and 'twas but a slender thread that held it in place. They argued that if the trust advanced the cost of sugar to the consumer, and thereby injured the democratic party, the senators would be in a retaliatory mood in December and would fire the sugar pop-gun at the trust. In their war on it they would have the active aid of many republican senators, who will never forgive the trust for the part it played in selecting Mr. Cleveland in 1892. The populists, too, would have to vote for the sugar pop-gun bill, in obedience to the demands of their constituents which would pour in on them after sugar had gone up a cent or two. Such were the comforting assurances with which many of the democrats bore down the republican predictions that the price of sugar would advance. And there was much plausibility in the argument.

But sugar has advanced, and the cause of it furnishes one of the most infamous chapters of American politics. It should be published far and wide for the purpose of confounding the schemes of the trust and the democratic party.

One of the most puzzling problems that the democrats have had to confront in the organization of the campaign which is now in progress, was the question of raising funds. An effort has been made to compel the sugar trust to again subscribe a large amount towards the carrying of the present election, but it is currently reported that the Havemeyer syndicate has asked to be excused as they had already contributed a very large sum and have not yet reaped any direct benefit from the democratic success of 1892; and if they should be compelled to subscribe again to the democratic campaign fund the price of sugar would have to be advanced at once, in order to help them to maintain their business upon anything like a paying basis. It is not generally known what the result of this conference was by the public; but it is currently reported that the committee convinced the trust that it was their duty to subscribe further to their campaign fund and let the price of sugar go up if necessary.

Are the people aware how this monstrous combination at the capital is to fatten upon the toil of the common people for the next three years. Forty or sixty millions at least will be gathered from the pockets of the poor, while the democrats will go on professing and declaiming to be the friends of the toilers and the enemies of combined capital!

The present campaign on the part of the democrats will be waged on the "boodle" line. They expect to buy with money what they cannot otherwise control by party prestige. Such districts as Mr. Wilson's, in West Virginia; Mr. Bynum's, in Indiana; and Mr. Tracey's, in New York, in reward for their fidelity to President Cleveland, are to be furnished with all the sugar "boodle" they need to ensure their reelection. Surely the glory of the democracy has departed! The high sounding phrases of "reform," of "honest administration" and "fair dealing with the masses" are to all intents and purposes today meaningless sentences. The mask of democracy has at last been pushed aside and its true character is made known. Spoils, both public and private, by which demagogues have fattened, is no longer a mystery of the inner chambers of Tammany and like organizations. They are known and belong to the public. The common people now understand that all professions of the past are but the cant and rant of a class of political aspirants, who sought political prestige and power for the purpose of selfish gain and selfish ends.

The republicans, who in the past have been charged as being "boodlers"—with their buying of elections, etc.—all of which they have stoutly denied, need this time to make no apologies for the use of money, as they are running their campaign, as they have always tried to do, without the illegitimate use of money in the hope of securing a great victory by the uprising of the people who have seen the folly of allowing the country to get into power, by which the country has been deplored of thousands of millions and the cries of the poor and suffering ones have set the most indifferent to thinking how the again. Let each individual man and woman during the next few months, as they are reminded of the things contained in this short chapter of democratic perfidy and crime, and as they factored and sold as an ill-gotten article of commerce, by an illicit combine of "boodlers" and democratic politicians, resolve that the time must soon come when the people shall be released from the thralldom of the trust and the homes shall again be made happy by independence, each having found honorable employment at remunerative wages.

Let not the emphasis of hospitality lie in bed and board, but let truth, love, honor and courtesy flow in all thy deeds.

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The Whiteness of It.

Philadelphia Inquirer: A newspaper which always endeavors to use clear and simple language says "nature moves in a series of ripples and passes through alternate epochs of dominance and subsidence." We've positive last summer that something was the matter with the old dame, we had no idea that matters were serious. It is to be hoped that the side will yield to treatment and succor.

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Yours truly, Mrs. W. C. B.

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