

Q.—What was that conversation you had with the secretary of state after it was all over with?

A.—My step-son died then there was two jobs of masonry. I went to ask for one of them and they promised it to me.

Q.—Who did it?

A.—Blake, Edmisten and the whole outfit.

Q.—Who were the whole outfit?

A.—Maret.

Q.—Who was Maret?

A.—The private secretary of the governor.

Q.—How did Maret come to promise you that place?

A.—They promised to use their influence to get me the position.

Q.—Did Maret know anything about what you had been doing in the vault?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did he ever say anything to you about it?

A.—No; in marking the ballots he only said to be careful, don't let them catch you.

Q.—When did he say that?

A.—While the work was going on.

Q.—How did you know what he meant?

A.—I saw him in Edmisten's office.

Q.—Was he there while the work was going on?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did he ever say anything or did you hear anybody say anything while the work was going on?

A.—I got some pencils to mark up the ballots with from him and he sharpened up a little one.

Q.—What was the little one made for?

A.—To put in my fingers so when I made a cross it couldn't be distinguished.

Q.—About how long was this pencil Maret made for you?

A.—A little over half an inch.

Q.—How did you use it?

A.—Between those two fingers.

Q.—That is between the index finger and the one next to it?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—The pencil was easily concealed there?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How did you learn how to hold it?

A.—I made one and when I got in a hurry I told him to make one?

Q.—You didn't make the first one?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And he made the second one?

A.—Yes, sir.

MARET WAS ON HAND.

Q.—When Maret made the second pencil for you did you say anything to him about what you wanted it for?

A.—Yes, sir, he saw me use it.

Q.—Where?

A.—Where we were working.

Q.—What were you doing?

A.—Working for the second count.

Q.—What were you doing?

A.—Counting the ballots.

Q.—And marking ballots?

A.—I was.

Q.—And was Maret in there when you were marking the ballots?

A.—Yes, sir.

STOLE EIGHT THOUSAND VOTES.

Q.—Now have you any way, Mr. Simons by which you can tell or approximately tell the number of ballots, before the governor's commission and before the legislative commission took hold of them, were changed?

A.—I should judge about seven or eight thousand ballots.

Q.—And this increase of votes was all made from the remarking ballots, and some substituting ballots?

A.—I judge there was seven or eight thousand ballots marked.

Q.—Did you use any of the ballots that had not been marked at all, by the voters, I mean?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What would you do with them?

A.—Mark a cross on them.

Q.—Then there were but two ways if I understand you that you increased the ballots in favor of the amendment, or three ways rather, by marking two crosses to overcome one, no, and by using blank ballots and by taking out ballots that were against the amendment?

A.—No, I didn't take any out.

Q.—Then there were only two ways you increased the vote in favor of the amendment?

A.—Some of the ballots had two marks on at the top and one at the bottom against the amendment, and we would put two for it, we would mark the blanks if it had a cross at the head for all the amendments or against it we put one at the top and one below.

Q.—You mean where you changed one for the amendment you make a cross at the top and then make another down at the bottom and by these two marks you would increase the ballots?

A.—Yes, sir.

SCHEME HATCHED AT HOLCOMB'S

Q.—Mr. Simons, didn't you have a conversation with Mr. Holcomb at one time about this matter?

A.—No, I never had a conversation with him, the thing started in his house.

Q.—At his home?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Who was there?

A.—Maret, Dahlgren, Edmisten and I forgot who else.

Q.—You were there?

A.—No, I wasn't there.

Q.—How did you know these men were all there.

A.—I was told so by a party that was there.

Q.—Who were you told by?

A.—I don't know whether it was Dahlgren or Edmisten, but as I was informed by a party that was there they decided to give this charge to Edmisten and he was to see to it.

Q.—That is all hearsay, you don't know anything about it of your own personal knowledge?

A.—Those that was told me.

Q.—Edmisten you say told you that?

A.—I wouldn't say whether it was Edmisten or Dahlgren.

Q.—Would you be positive it was either one of them?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Then one or the other of those men told you of the meeting at the home of the governor?

A.—Yes, sir.

PORTER PROVIDED CUSTODIAN.

Q.—Who put the custodian in charge of these ballots?

A.—Porter.

Q.—Was that the man that let you in after the ballots?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Who fixed that with him?

A.—Edmisten.

Q.—Did you hear Edmisten when he was doing it?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—How do you know?

A.—When he started for the first package of ballots he said I will go in and see Kelsey.

Q.—Where is Kelsey?

A.—He is chief janitor of the State house.

Q.—Do you remember talking with me last winter during the legislature about this matter?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What was it you told me there in relation to your going into the ex-governor's office and telling him about doing this and he said don't stay and talk to me here, I don't want to hear it here?

GOT HOLCOMB TO HELP.

A.—We were working on Fremont in Dodge county. We had the Dodge county ballots on our table and I took the first ward and put on the second and the second on the third and counted them and we had more ballots than voters and I was afraid of an investigation and I went in and told the Governor to hold the commission back until after I got back to the ballots for a few minutes so I could straighten them out.

Q.—That was during the first count, during your manipulation of the ballots?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—About how long was this pencil Maret made for you?

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A BOLD PLOT UNCOVERED

KEARNEY, Neb., Oct. 18.—(Special.)—Why did Juan Boyle resign chairmanship of the democratic congressional committee for the Sixth district? That is the question that has been frequently of late propounded by the Bee, but no fusionist of the district has rushed into print with the explanation sought.

It will be remembered that when the populists and democrats met in two conventions some weeks since at Lexington to nominate a candidate for congress to fill the vacancy in the Sixth district created by the death of the late W. L. Greene last winter in Omaha, the efforts of the fusion conspirators to secure a combination upon a joint candidate slipped a cog. As a result two candidates were placed in nomination. The democrats presented M. C. Harrington of North Platte, and the populists put up William Neville of the same place. At the time both parties were obdurate and considerable bitter feeling was engendered by the unavailing contention.

No sooner was the result of the conventions heralded broadcast than the leaders of the fusion machine, who conveniently find lodgement in both parties and manage to act as bell-wethers to the neighboring herds of confiding voters, began to clamor for the withdrawal of Harrington. For a time Harrington and his friends put on a determined front, protested that the democrats were entitled to the nomination and that he would certainly make the race. This apparently dauntless determination of Harrington to hold to the nomination remained unshaken until the gathering of the fusion clans later at Omaha for the triangular state convention, when it went out with a suddenness akin

to that which marks the extinction of an electric light tickled by a broken circuit.

Of course Colonel Bryan was in Omaha at that time and from his room in a hotel was directing the operations of the three conventions through his lieutenants in each such as one would marshal the pawns upon the boards in a three-cornered, one-sided game of chess.

Noon of the day of the conventions, before they had been called to order, saw a rush of Sixth district fusion statesmen toward Bryan's room. Among them was M. C. Harrington, and it was given out that "row in the Sixth district was about to be straightened out." Just what occurred in that room during the secret conclave that followed may never be definitely known to those not actually present, but, judging from events that immediately followed, a plan was agreed on that contemplated the election of a populist to congress from the Sixth district by the aid of deception and perjury, the conspirators being moved to this sacrifice by the consideration and understanding among themselves that

"After 1900 there will be no necessity of a third party and by our many sacrifices we will win over nearly all the populists to our party."

It is not merely surmised that this was the moving consideration that prompted the participants in that meeting. It is absolutely known that Mr. Harrington came out of the meeting imbued with that conviction, as it appears in his correspondence subsequently had with Juan Boyle, the chairman of his congressional committee. Whether Harrington suddenly conceived this idea or imbibed it from Bryan is not stated, but something new must have been presented to him during that meeting by his doughty leader which prompted him to relinquish his nomination, as that is the reason he assigns to the chairman of his committee for giving up his fight. It must have been Bryan

who suggested to him that his withdrawal would wipe out the third party by winning the populists over to the democracy.

It was also undoubtedly in pursuance of the plans adopted at that meeting that Harrington at once placed himself in correspondence with Juan Boyle, chairman of his committee, in order to justify his withdrawal. His letters to Boyle afford an insight into those plans, which can rest on nothing less than downright perjury. In one of them he writes to Boyle a suggestion that must be of intense interest to the honest follower of the populist cause, namely, that "We must accept the inevitable—The future of democracy in the Sixth district depends largely upon the number we can draw from populist ranks. There will be but two parties, and the leaders of the democratic party now will be the recognized leaders then. Submit gracefully, even though we have to stretch a point to do so."

What Harrington meant by this invitation to "stretch a point" is the act at which Juan Boyle balked. It meant simply that Boyle should make a sworn certificate to the effect that the convention which had nominated Harrington had by resolution authorized the congressional committee to fill any vacancies that might occur on the ticket. With the letter Harrington sent a certificate ready prepared, even embodying therein what purported to be the resolution adopted for the filling of vacancies. The reason Mr. Boyle balked was that such resolution was ever passed by that convention, and he was not ready to perjure himself even for Bryan's sake. That was the rock upon which the ark of fusion conspiracy split for some time, until a

my intentions to withdraw from the race for congress. There is no other solution of the matter. It is the only logical thing to do. It will not hurt the democratic party of this district, on the contrary it will strengthen us for all time to come. After 1900 there will be no necessity for a third party, and by our many sacrifices we will win over nearly all the populists to our party. I will prepare a communication to the congressional committee of the Sixth district today—making formal withdrawal and send a copy of same to you. The vacancy ought to be filled at once by the chairman and secretary by placing the name of William Neville at the head of the democratic ticket. The chairman of every county central committee in the Sixth district has written urging prompt action as above indicated excepting Dawson county. It would be disastrous to wait any longer.

Please give me your answer as soon as you receive official notice of my withdrawal. Mr. Neal, secretary, is absent in Virginia and I am authorized to act for him—and can sign any paper necessary. The procedure next will be to file with secretary of state a document substituting the name of William Neville by virtue of authority vested in the congressional committee. They have all agreed to it excepting Dr. Baker of Lexington. Yours very respectfully,

M. C. HARRINGTON.

On October 3 another (fac-simile of which is herewith given) and a certificate formed to sign and swear to was secured from Mr. Harrington.

WHAT THEY ASKED BOYLE TO SWEAR TO.

State of Nebraska, Sixth Congressional District, ss:

We hereby certify that at a delegate convention held on the 18th day of August, 1899, at Lexington, Dawson county, Neb., pursuant to a duly advertised call for the purpose of plac-

ing in nomination a candidate for congressman for the Sixth congressional district, which convention was composed of voters representing the democratic party, a political party which at the last election polled more than 1 per cent of the entire vote cast in this congressional district, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, By the democratic party of the Sixth Congressional district of Nebraska, in convention assembled, that the congressional committee consisting of the chairman of the county central committees of the several counties in the district, be and they are hereby empowered and authorized to fill any vacancies which may occur on the ticket named by us here today."

We further certify that a vacancy has occurred by the resignation and withdrawal of M. C. Harrington as a candidate for congress, and we further certify that the said committee was organized by the election of Juan Boyle of Kearney, Buffalo county, Neb., as chairman and presiding officer, and W. B. McNeal of North Platte, Lincoln county, Neb., as secretary, and that said committee hereby names and nominates William Neville of North Platte, Lincoln county, Neb., as the regular candidate representing the party above named, for the office of congressman for the Sixth congressional district of Nebraska.

Chairman.

Secretary.

State of Nebraska, Buffalo County, ss:

I, Juan Boyle, of Kearney, Buffalo county, Neb., do solemnly swear that I was duly elected chairman of the democratic congressional committee of the Sixth congressional district of Nebraska and that the above certificate and the statements therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this — day of —, 1899.

State of Nebraska, Lincoln county, ss:

I, W. B. McNeal, of North Platte,

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this — day of —, 1899.

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