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HONESTY TRIUMPHS

The State House Thieves Must Keep Hands Off the Penitentiary Funds

HOLOOMB AND LEIDIGH WIN

The Gallant Fight of the Populist Governor and His Warden—Al. Beemer Can't Get that Three Thousand Dollars

Taxpayers Everywhere Rejoice.

The fight that Governor Holcomb and Warden Leideigh have made during the last four months to prevent the further robbing of the state treasury has no parallel in this or any other state, for the pluck, persistency and patriotic unselfishness with which it has been fought. There was nothing of power, place or money to be gained, either by the Governor or the warden. It was a fight made to save the already overburdened and almost poverty stricken taxpayers of this state from further looting by the Churchill-Russell gang. It is the first triumph ever gained over the old penitentiary ring. From the day that Boss Stout got control of that institution until Warden Leideigh took charge, it has been a pest hole of corruption.

Upon the inauguration of a Populist Governor the first effort ever attempted to conduct the institution honestly, was made. It was met by the Republican members of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings with most furious opposition.

Without the shadow of law to support them, Churchill and Russell appointed C. Beemer as superintendent of the prison with a salary of \$3,000 a year, an office unknown to the law or the constitution, and made a contract with him to have him control of the convicts, and of the \$100,000 appropriated by the legislature for support of the prison. All this money and all the convicts could earn was to be put in the hands of Russell. The warden, the officer provided for by the constitution and the law, was to be as useless as the fifth wheel to a wagon.

Warden Leideigh refused to admit Beemer to the prison, and the board refused to audit or pay the expenses of maintaining and guarding the convicts, or five months, Warden Leideigh has led the prison against these state house thieves. Neither he, nor any of the employees have received a cent of pay, during that time, but they have all bravely stood at their posts of duty defending the taxpayers against this gang of public robbers. They are brave men, and the voters of Nebraska should ever hold them in grateful remembrance.

In their intense desire to get their itching fingers on that \$100,000 appropriation and what money the convicts could earn, Churchill and Russell went to unheard of lengths, even refusing to perform the functions of the office they held. Finally Warden Leideigh brought suit against them in the supreme court of the state and asked the court for a writ of mandamus to compel them to do their duty.

The case came to trial last Thursday, and upon the facts being presented, the actions of Churchill and Russell proved to be too outrageous even for a republican court to uphold.

The main points of the decision were: 1. The treasurer is the only legal custodian of the state funds. So none of the \$100,000 appropriation or the earnings of the convicts will ever find a legitimate home in Mr. Russell's itching palm.

2. The Warden can maintain a suit in his own name.

3. The Warden is the keeper of the prison and the board can in no way interfere with the performance of his duties.

4. The contract made with Al. Beemer was illegal and is void.

5. The state must maintain the penitentiary and it is the duty of the board to meet with the Warden and make purchases as his estimates.

6. The Board of Public Lands and Buildings cannot handle any state money and the chairman of the board is not responsible on his bond for money paid over to him.

This last point is a clean knock out for Churchill and Russell. If they can't handle any of the money they will have no further interest in the affair.

It will be remembered that the state, to get rid of the old thieving contract system, bought out the Mosher contract and Dorgan. Mr. Kirkpatrick, attorney for Warden Leideigh, in speaking of this matter said:

"The act in question contains two subjects, only one of which is mentioned in the title; one is the cancellation of the Mosher lease, the purchasing of machinery, tools, etc., belonging to Dorgan, and closing and finally settling up the prison contract that had been in force under various statutes since 1877. This portion of the act is complete in itself and comes fairly within the title of the act."

"The second subject appears in section of the act heretofore set out, and is the one relied upon for authority to make the Beemer contract. This subject is just as separate and distinct from the other as it possibly could be made. One closing up a prison contract at an expense to the state of \$35,000, which practically an entire loss, the other is

an entry into another contract, with different parties, for a different term and upon terms less favorable to the state than those of the old contract. The first is adjusting and settling up an existing obligation, the other is creating a new liability. One is freeing the state, at great expense, from a contract which had been a moral stench in the nostrils of the taxpayers of the state for years, and the other is to authorize the making of a new contract that, while it might not run as long, would, we think, be less favorable to the state than the old. One is rescuing a man from a lake, the other is drowning him in the ocean. The first would be laudable, the second a crime."

Of the Beemer contract he said: "The contract purports to turn over to Beemer the entire charge and control of the penitentiary, penitentiary grounds and all the buildings and property of the state, which the Board is not authorized to do. It turns over to Beemer all the earnings of the prison and provides that he shall pay to the chairman of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings what money he is not able to spend, less the \$3,000 that he keeps as salary. "The Board undertakes to create a new office and install Beemer therein to perform no other duties than the warden is required by law to perform and undertakes to pay him \$3,000 for performing the warden's duties."

To all this the decision of the court has put a stop. But Churchill is not ready, notwithstanding the decision, to perform the duties of his office, but was telling persons around the Capitol the first part of the week that he was going to make another trial to get hold of that money. The only hope, there is a Populist governor there to watch him.

A RECEIVER FOR OMAHA

Because the City Government is Unable to Meet Its Expenses

The above are the bold headlines of a column article in the State Journal dated Omaha, Jan. 13. The article reads as follows:

"A petition is in preparation and will soon be in circulation asking the courts to put the city of Omaha into the hands of a receiver. Joseph Barker admitted that he had suggested last week that a petition be prepared and a receiver appointed. The city he said was coming to it and while he had not investigated when the next interest on bonds became due, he knew that the city was obliged to borrow money last year from the banks to meet its obligations promptly. The banks would not continue to help the city unless there was a radical change and there was absolutely no hope of obtaining such a change from the council or city officials. The appointment of a receiver was therefore the only remedy which he could see. Mr. Barker argued that a receiver would not be bound by the present charter provisions fixing the salaries of city officials and providing for a number of unnecessary officials as by the present water, lighting and other contracts."

Here we have an object lesson where both of the old parties have at different times ruled the city since it was organized, and what is the result, a city so burdened with debt that it is not able to meet its current expenses. During the last four years it has been robbed by a Republican treasurer of about \$150,000. For the last four years the city has been ruled by the Republicans. The city council has been the most corrupt one that Omaha ever had, all kinds of jobs and jobbery have been put through the council and the tax-payers have been robbed right and left. The city is cursed with a private company owning the water works. The taxpayers are called upon to pay more than \$85,000 for water that is used for public purposes, while the company charges the private consumers prices that are more than twenty per cent higher than the prices charged to private consumers of the Lincoln water works which is owned by the city, and the people of Lincoln are not taxed a dollar for public water.

There will be a radical change in nearly all the city governments in this country or the cities will have to be placed in the hands of a receiver. The city of Lincoln will have to retrench in its expenditures and turn out its boodling mayor, and with its council of fourteen members, ten of which are boodlers and with an interest bearing debt of more than \$2,500,000 to be taken care of, it is hard to see how it can be kept out of a receivers hands, and you want to remember that this city has been ruled by the Republican party for the last twenty-five years.

A Big Fraud

The new dodge of a popular loan issued on Monday by Secretary Carlisle has a cat in the meat tub. The bids are to be for \$50 and multiples of that sum. A popular loan on the French model would be for \$5 and multiples of that sum. But this is not the worst of it. She advertisement contains the following proviso: "The right to reject any and all bids is reserved." This will enable the syndicate to get all the bonds, because excuses for rejecting the small bids will be plentier than sands on the sea shore. If it was intended as an honest popular loan the bonds would be offered to the public at such price as under all the circumstances would be regarded as reasonable.—Silver Knight.

All druggists sell Dr. Miles' Pain Pills.

A RALLY OF PATRIOTS

The Bill for the Issue of More Bonds is Denounced

ALL PARTIES REPRESENTED

An Immense Crowd of Laborers, Bankers and Business Men—Unbounded Enthusiasm

The Meeting a Great Success.

The meeting of the Nebraska Silver League last Saturday night at Bohannon's hall in this city was one of the most remarkable gatherings of voters that ever convened in this state. It was remarkable on account of the immense numbers present, who came together upon a notice of one weekly paper and a line or two in the evening dailies. The State Journal, with its accustomed innate devilishness, announced Funk's opera house as the place. Many went there, and seeing it all in darkness went home. There was no brass band, no posters, no bills, only these simple announcements, and the voters of Lincoln turned out in greater numbers than they have to any political meeting in the height of a campaign for years past. It was remarkable because all political parties were there, and all were represented by speakers of their own. The chairman of the meeting was a republican, who has, as a member of that party, held a seat in congress and the office secretary of state for Nebraska.

It was remarkable for unanimity. There was not a dissenting voter present, or if there was, he did not let it be known.

It was remarkable for enthusiasm. The air was almost constantly rent with cheers. When Gov. Holcomb appeared he was greeted with round after round of applause. So was Bryan, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Wolfenbarger, Mr. Brown, and every speaker who addressed the meeting.

The meeting was opened by the election of G. L. Lawes, on the motion of Mr. Bryan, as chairman. Then speeches followed by Mr. Hardy, Mr. Jay Burroughs, Mr. Brown, Mr. Wolfenbarger, Gov. Holcomb and W. J. Bryan.

The large audience was made up principally of populists. There were also many democrats and prohibitionists and a scattering of republicans. All the speakers were fierce in their denunciation of the issue of bonds, and at every reference to free silver the audience nearly raised the roof with their shouts.

The following resolution was passed without a dissenting voice and sent to Senator Allen, to be presented in the United States senate:

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Lincoln, Neb., irrespective of party, in mass meeting assembled, earnestly protest against the issue of bonds to buy gold and heartily approve of the bill recently reported to the senate by the finance committee, providing for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1, for the coming of the seigniorage and directing the secretary of the treasury to exercise the right vested in him by redeeming greenbacks and treasury notes in silver.

SPEECH OF HON. G. L. LAWES.

Mr. Lawes upon taking the chair at the great meeting at Bohannon's hall, Saturday night said:

Fellow citizens: As members of the existing political parties of this state it is entirely proper to ask, "What are we here for?"

A wall of distress comes across the waters; trumpeted into the listening ears of a suffering people. A people intelligent and industrious, inhabiting a continent rich in every material resource, living under one of the best, if not the best, form of government on the earth, and yet the evidence of want are everywhere and the mutterings of discontent on the increase.

There is evidently something wrong. We have had sunshine and shower. As promised, we have had seed time and harvest, not in as great abundance, it is true, as sometimes, yet in our own state, and within a few miles of our beautiful city, food, corn and wheat, can be bought for less than cost, for less than we can produce them with the labor of our own hands. Yet the hungry are every day at our doors.

Our churches are doing charity work, down to the penny contribution by the little children.

Our fraternal societies are carrying and caring for their brethren to the fullest extent of their ability.

Towns, cities, and counties are burdened with demands for aid, and even our moneyed institutions are asking charitable consideration and gentle treatment at the hands of the people. And such is due them. "Bear ye one another's burdens." Many good men, strong and true, have borrowed money of the banks which they cannot now return.

Like an athlete lowered into a well where the air is bad, all seems quiet and safe around him. The light is good, the walls are secure, but there is an invisible power robbing him of his strength. His limbs tremble, his voice grows faint, and his hold on the "hoist" is loosened.

So does the man of property soon feel his financial strength depart from him. He feels his strong hold upon his business weakened by depreciation in the value of his holdings. His voice is no longer heard in protest or supplication. He is financially dead, and the banker

"charges off" his note to "profit and loss," thus diminishing the banker's assets and lessening his ability to meet his obligations.

Of all men engaged in legitimate business today the western banker is most entitled to sympathy, and like the Indiana boy who said he did not believe there was another boy in Indiana who liked ginger bread as well as he did who got so little of it.

This financial death damp, this contraction of the circulating money of the country, affects all of us, whether banker, business man, or beggar. Yet its progress is so silent and stealthy, so subtle and unobserved, that its existence is doubted or denied by our most active and intelligent workers till they find themselves powerless, their best efforts for success as barren of results as the generous shower that falls on the treeless desert or the herbless ocean.

So great is the demand for currency today that our great banks in New York have felt it necessary a second time to protect themselves by the illegal issuance of clearing house certificates. Should any respectable butcher in this city issue checks marked "Good for 25 cents in meat at my shop," those checks would pass at par among our people in any reasonable amount, and yet we are told that it is a "want of confidence" that is our ailment, in part at least. Is it not rather a want of ability to convert property into money that induces "want of confidence."

Not directly connected with it, yet directly growing out of existing conditions, contrasting more strongly than usual the difference between those who have and those who have not—the rich and the poor, is there thought to be a growing disregard of the rights of property; an increasing ill will and a tendency toward anarchy.

It is known that there are those among us who would rather steal than work. Others who would rather starve than steal. Others again who would rather steal than beg. And there are the converse of each of these propositions.

Fortunately neither course is necessary at this time in this country.

Under the laws all the property of all the people is pledged to help those who are powerless to help themselves. The meanest course a man can pursue to get a living is to steal. Such conduct is only justifiable when every effort for self-help has been exhausted and when appeal to all sources for aid has been asked and refused.

The right to hold and enjoy every cent's worth of property honestly earned is only less sacred than the rights of flesh and blood, and must be maintained. Private property is the foundation of all progress, of the arts and sciences; of society and the family, which is the corner stone, the architrave and the supporting arch of our civilization.

How quickly the loss of property affects the higher civilization is forcibly illustrated in this state and throughout the country today.

The method adopted to acquire property may be censurable and in some instances ought to be subject to legal restraint, but diversity of natural endowment, or ability to acquire and hold property, on fair terms ought not to be restrained.

"The laborer is worth his hire," and there indeed can be no ill will against those who have and hold property, known or believed to have been honestly acquired.

But there are those so wholly devoted to money getting; whose scent for gain is so sharp and whose relish is so keen that the methods they adopt are not as commendable as those of the honest laborer and the highway man, whom nobody trust, and by whom few are deceived, and here is where the trouble begins.

Every dollar owed by the people of Nebraska any where whether by individual, city, town or state, ought to be paid with a dollar of equal purchasing power with the dollar borrowed.

Anything less than this, if contributed to in any way by the borrower, is partial reproduction at least. Any demand for anything more than this, of the increased demand be contributed to by the lender, is legal robbery.

The people who hold our obligations East, are in the main of moderate wealth and our obligations to them represent the savings of years of patient toil and rigid economy.

These people could be settled with today at large. I have no reasonable doubt that all paper against us due and part due, could be bought today for 50 cents on the dollar and I am not entirely without knowledge to support this proposition.

Our creditors do not want our property which they are being compelled to take at great inconvenience to themselves and in many instances great loss to us.

This is the result of civilizations forced upon us and them by the hyenas and jackals of the human race; the brokers of New York and London, men who "post" with almost fiendish delight the failure of one of their members and cheerfully aid in ordering his family into the street and himself to insanity and suicide.

These are they who are in control of the money of this country and who are dictating to its president and congress what kind and what quantity of money the people of this country shall use.

These are the men who engineered the horrors of Black Friday and who inaugurated the panic of '93.

These are the men who have hired learned professors of eastern colleges to write and circulate all over the country learned dissertations on the beauties and benefits of the gold standard and who have employed the cartoonist and the rhymist to demonstrate to the poor man and the laboring man the great injury that would result to them should silver be reinstated on an equal footing with gold in the coinage of this country.

These are the men who are now depleting the Treasury of its gold and demanding that the greenbacks shall be retired and a new interest bearing debt of nearly \$500,000,000 shall be converted into an interest bearing debt of like amount and the contraction of the currency to that extent.

And what answer does a gold standard president make to such demand? He says: "Issue the bonds quickly and save the country from bankruptcy and ruin." And what does congress say? Here it is: "A bill to maintain and protect the coin redemption fund."

After the introductory, the bill reads: The secretary of treasury is authorized, from time to time at his discretion, to issue, sell, and dispose of, at not less than par, coin coupons, or registered bonds, to an amount sufficient for the object stated in this section, bearing not to exceed 3 per cent interest, payable semi-annually, and redeemable at the pleasure of the United States in coin after five years, etc.

And the secretary of treasury shall use the proceeds thereof for the redemption of United States legal tender notes, and for no other purposes.

Under this bill these notes are not to be destroyed, but stored and not to be paid out to meet deficiencies in the revenue, and that condition is provided for in the second section of the bill.

Then it would appear to be plain that the result would be the same under the president's plan and under the Dingley or house bill, except as to time and the sale of interest, which are more favorable to the people than under the president's plan. Under both plans a non-interest bearing debt would be changed to an interest bearing one, and the currency would be contracted in either event nearly \$500,000,000. Are the republicans of Nebraska in favor of this course?

[Every republican member of congress from Nebraska voted for it. Do Meiklejohn, Mercer, Hainer, Strode, and Andrews represent Nebraska republicans?—Ed. INDEPENDENT.]

Should this bill pass the senate and become a law, what would be the result? Admitted that this line of policy will contract the currency, let me quote what Abraham Lincoln said would be the consequences:

"If a government contracted a debt with a certain amount of money in circulation, and then contracted the money volume before the debt was paid, it is the most heinous crime that a government could commit against the people."

And hear what John Barnard Byles, one of England's greatest jurists, says: "Men talk glibly of variations in the currency. Few reflect on the awful extent to which such changes affect the prosperity of all ranks. The laborer, the pauper, and the beggar are as much interested in the currency question as the manufacturer, the shopkeeper, or the great proprietor of lands or funds, and even more."

Such quotations could be made at indefinite length, made by leading statesmen and thinkers of all countries and all times.

But we are told that financial trouble and panic are the result of deficiency of the revenue, the repeal of the McKinley tariff. That the election of a president on a free trade platform with both houses of congress supposed to be of the same faith, had some influence in bringing about such unfavorable results, I am not here to deny. No doubt protected interests were alarmed, and began to hedge against lower prices by diminishing their output and reducing expenses.

But when the party placed in power under promise to reform the tariff failed to do so, and was able to make a reduction or but 3 per cent, as told by the New York Tribune, and a part of this reduction because of an enlarged free list, including lumber and wool, ought not these protected manufacturers to have felt that their position was invincible and immediately begun work again? But they did not do it. They could not secure the necessary money on fair terms. The people were not able to buy.

Clothing in our stores at half cost and men in our streets half clad are not evidences of over-production. Neither is the fact of less than a full crop at less than half former prices.

Corn, wheat, and oats at less than cost, and nobody but Armour with money to buy! Armour, who has put his own price on every steer on the plains and on every pound of steak eaten in most cities. Truthfully could Webster say that liberty could not long endure in any country where the tendency was to concentrate wealth in the hands of the few. This is the calamity howl raised by Webster, and I suppose Dan, notwithstanding his transcendent abilities, was about as hard up most of the time as many of us are now.

This, then, is the condition that confronts us:

A gold standard president urges the issuance of gold bonds to pay off the greenbacks and convert a non-interest-bearing debt into an interest-bearing one, and in doing so contract the currency of the country nearly \$500,000,000, and according to Senator Sherman, adding greatly to the burden of existing debts and arresting the progress of almost every American industry.

Under the house bill now pending in the senate, headed however by a free silver substitute, the same result will be reached and the same policy followed.

The greenbacks are to be stored not cancelled, that is all.

Do the republicans of Nebraska favor the policy?

If the senate should not pass this bill soon you may expect to hear a calamity howl go up all over the state that the silver senators who seem to be in the majority, are responsible for continuing distress and endangering the credit of the nation. A nation as before stated,

(Continued on 8th page.)

THE OLD ROBBER GANG

They Transform an Earthly Paradise Into a Barren Desert

WONDERING IN THE DARKNESS

The Bewildered People Hope Plutocracy Will Bring Them Relief

About Time to Wake Up

WOOD LAWS, NEB., Dec. 30, 1896.

Editor NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT: Last week the German National Bank closed its doors, which shook the confidence in other banks so that one of the savings banks had to take the advantage of the right of sixty days warning.

By the deceitful bankruptcy of the Capital National Bank, the State, Lancaster county, the city of Lincoln and the citizens of Nebraska have not only lost over half a million dollars, but our credit was injured for more than double this amount, so that one business after another failed, and now another bank is failing. Where will this end?

When a few years ago the Populists gave warning about the consequences of our corrupt business methods they were laughed at as near-sighted, impractical, calamity howlers, and when, with great difficulty, they disclosed the enormous frauds and steals in the different departments of the state and county institutions, such as the Insane Asylum, Penitentiary, etc., the robber's gang did not shrink from any means to save the plunder, and bribing and false oaths had their effect; the plunder was saved and the successful robbers laugh at the people whose life blood they have tapped.

Only one member of the whole gang was foolish enough to hastily plead guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary for five years. There is no doubt that the lawyer of this man has in an unjustifiable way neglected to defend the rights of his client. He would not be in the penitentiary if the lawyer had done his duty, because if a member of this powerful gang pleads guilty of any crime he is a fool and should be sent to the insane asylum and not to the penitentiary. It is to be hoped that after a while this man will be declared innocent. By such a decision the court would acquire due respect from the people, and it seems that a good many judges are in need of respect.

If Mike steals a horse from Sam and sells it for cash to Pat, Sam can take the horse away from Pat without paying any indemnification, but Mosher robs his depositors of \$100,000 and buys a house for it, which he gives to his wife.

Mosher's creditors have no right to take this house away from Mosher's wife because she is the innocent purchaser. The house is the wholly unattachable property of this woman, although in her innocence she never paid a single cent for it.

Although the people of this state can daily observe this robber gang even take the shirt from some fellow's body, this robber gang is never blamed for the prevailing misery. The responsibility is always put on something else, high tariff, or low tariff, Populists or saloons, churches or the devil.

In his book, "If Christ came to Chicago," Mr. Stead describes our plutocrats, natural and true, as follows:

"The process of accumulating goes on irresistibly. The snowball gathers as it grows. Even spendthrifts and prodigals cannot dissipate the unearned increment of their millions which multiply while they sleep. The millionaire is developing into the billionaire and the end is not yet."

But everywhere the money power has the people by the throat. Whether it is the pawnbroker charging 10 per cent per month interest upon the pledges of the poor, or the millionaire, negotiating with newspapers for the abandonment of the inter-commerce act, the spectacle is the same. The poor man is the servant of the rich and at present stands in danger of becoming his slave.

Plutocracy in America even more than in England, recalls Victor Hugo's memorable description of the octopus. Had he described it from his observations in America he would not have altered a single sentence. This description of the spectral phantom of the deep, the devil-fish, with its huge arms, with its four hundred tentacles that cut and suck like a cupping glass, this loathsome horror of vampire-death, lurking in ocean caves to seize the limbs and draw the life of the unwary fisherman, is only too true to life as many an unfortunate will recognize.

The devilfish is the most suitable symbol for our plutocratic administration. Legislatures, courts, army, police, Fin kerton's and the church. Even higher educational institutions are the tentacles which deliver the people to this gruesome monster to suck out their blood. As soon as a corporation has its charter, the people are delivered to it soul and body, and escape is impossible.

(Continued on 2d page.)

Dr. Miles' NERVE RESTORER CURE RHEUMATISM, WEAK BACKS, AC DRUGGISTS, ONLY SO.