

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

In this column we will publish communications of a worthy and suitable character, received from subscribers to this paper. No communication should contain more than 500 words. Manuscript will not be returned.

A Retrospective View.

BY MART HOWE.

Much discussion has been indulged in by the friends of reform in relation to the strength of the old and new parties in this state and from which of the two old parties the populist party derived its strength in 1890 and since then. I am aware that many of our democratic and republican friends will say, "I voted for Van Wyck, Powers, Holcomb and Maxwell, but I will give nothing but the official figures and this we will have to abide by in the absence of no better proof. What deductions or concessions I may arrive at are my own opinions and not the public's or the independent parties. Every reader of this article can draw his own.

I will go back to the year 1888 as I wish to commence with some election when the old parties polled the full strength of their ticket and a year void of any local disturbance that would affect the vote.

1888—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

For Governor. Thayer, rep.....103,983 McShane dem.....85,420 Bigelow rep.....9,511 Butler labor.....3,941

W. A. Poynter was the democrat nominee for state auditor who was defeated by T. H. Benton by a vote of 108,190 to 80,796.

H. S. Aley of Lincoln was the labor candidate for auditor and W. F. Wright the same party's candidate for land commissioner.

1889—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

Total.....169,733 The labor party named O. M. Kim for regent, he received 2,959 votes. Eighteen counties in the state gave the democratic party a majority vote. This was the year that a disinfection set in against both old parties in this state.

The defeat of judge Reese by Norval for supreme judge which was brought about by the corporations at Hastings was the "straw that broke the camel's back."

There was only 169,000 votes polled showing a stay-at-home vote of 32,000. In 1888 Douglas county cast 20,000 votes, giving Cleveland this county by over 600. This year the county cast 12,876 votes for supreme judges giving Ames a majority of 1230.

1890—Total vote on governor. Richards rep.....68,878 Boyd dem.....71,331 Powers ind.....70,187 Paine prob.....3,676

Political historians will always remember the campaign of this year by reason of two very important factors that entered into it, viz: A constitutional amendment prohibiting the sale and manufacture of intoxicating beverages in this state and the springing into existence of a new political party that is destined to be a "Moses" to the wealth producers of this nation, and by the way of digression I want to say that in my humble opinion there would have been no occasion for the populist party in the west if the party in power had honestly carried out or even made an effort toward their promises to the people as contained in their platforms. The producers were asking for their party to protect them from being robbed by the corporations of this state. They were asking for an Australian ballot system and many other needed reforms. Did they get relief through the republican party of this state? Look at the melting away of that magnificent 28,000 republican majority in Nebraska and 80,000 in "bleeding" Kansas, the banner republican state in the union in 1888. Tell me that there was nothing going wrong that this change in two short years should be brought about?

Now let us analyze the vote for this year. The 32,000 stay-at-homes of 1889 are in evidence and they bring 13,000 new votes with them. In Douglas county Boyd received 18,308 votes—nearly 6000 more than the total vote cast one year before, and within 3,000 of as many as the total vote cast in 1888. Richards received 6,456 or 2,686 less than his associates on the republican ticket. Powers received 1173 votes, Paine 187. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 1,555 for and 23,918 against. Douglas county cast a total of 26,124 for governors a gain of 13,248 votes in one year. The independent electors elected a majority to both branches of our legislature and gave the people the Australian ballot and a maximum freight bill more commonly known as the Newberry bill, which is at present hung up by the corporations in the supreme court of the United States.

1891—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

This year we had 58,000 stay-at-homes. There were to be elected one supreme judge and two regents and district judges. The independents really elected their two regents but were "counted out" somewhere along the line on D'Almeida and Marple Rep. of Omaha was counted in. Hadley, populist was elected regent. Edgerton received 1,734 more votes in Douglas county than Hadley did, yet he was defeated by 4,136.

Out of fifteen district judges the independents elected ten.

1892—Total vote on governors 196,000. Crouse rep.....78,000 Van Wyck ind.....68,000 Morton dem.....44,000 Bentley prob.....6,000

This was a presidential year. The Weaver electors were defeated. They received a vote of 82,000 to 87,000 for the Harrison electors and the Cleveland electors received 25,000 votes. There were over 13,000 voters who did not express their preference for governor, but the republican and 4,000 independent electors.

Legislature was elected and on joint ballot the independents and democrats combined and elected Wm. V. Allen, U. S. senator who succeeded Paddock. The democrats had 16 and the independents 57 votes. It required 67 to elect.

After casting their party vote for Powers and Green, whom they could not persuade the democrats to support, W. V. Allen was taken up and after several ballots he received the entire Independent and democratic vote—73.

In the forenoon before the election of Allen the republicans and a few Morton democrats held a joint caucus in the rooms now occupied by the supreme court and came within ten votes of electing J. Sterling Morton, U. S. S. Ten resolute republicans in that joint caucus could not be intimidated or purchased in their support of a democrat. When the roll was called at 12 m. they swung back to John M. Thurston and Alonzo S. Paddock.

1893—Total vote—181,000. There were to be elected a supreme judge and a regent to fill vacancy. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

Nothing in this campaign to arouse the enthusiasm of the people. All three nominees for supreme judge, were clear, able men. Irvine received nearly one-fourth of his entire vote in Douglas county, 8,275. Holcomb received only 3,375 and Harrison 8,064.

1894—Total vote on governors, 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

This campaign was very interesting for two reasons. First a wide open split of the democratic party on the money question and second the nomination of Holcomb by Bryan in the Omaha convention, and the refusal of the Omaha Bee to support the head of the republican ticket. The candidates on the independent ticket for lieutenant governor, superintendent, attorney general, commissioner public lands and buildings and state auditor were endorsed by the democrats, leaving only state treasurer and secretary of state to "paddle their own canoe." Holcomb was elected over Majors by a plurality of 3,202, yet we find he received only 417 more votes than R. E. Moore, the republican nominee for lieutenant governor, although Moore defeated Gaffly by more than 12,000. The returns show the Independent vote to be 69,000 as this is the vote in round numbers that Powers and McPaddock received. Therefore Holcomb received 28,000 votes from the democrats and Rosewater republicans.

It would take the entire democratic vote combined that was cast for secretary of state (29,000) to elect Holcomb, but as Sturdevant received 6,985 votes and the balance of the state republican ticket were elected, receiving substantially the same vote that Holcomb did, the query is whose votes (28,000) elected him.

It has been generally conceded that Rosewater controlled 10,000 and I think this a fair estimate. This would leave 18,000 silver democrats who supported the independent ticket.

Yet if we take majors vote, 94,613 and Sturdevant (gold dem.) 6,985 then the (gold) democratic vote cast for Ellick for secretary of state (19,466) and the 19,639 cast for Bauman (gold) democrat for auditor, and 13,000 for Bridenbahl (gold dem) for treasurer, 15,000 for Doolittle (gold dem.) for superintendent, 14,000 for Ames (gold dem.) for attorney general, why we can make a deduction that will lead up to the conclusion that the heads of the republican ticket received 10,000 democratic votes.

1895—Total vote.....182,916 There were to be elected a supreme judge and two regents. For supreme judge: Norval, rep.....79,291 Maxwell, ind.....70,566 Mahoney (gold dem).....18,636 Phelps (silver).....10,079 Wollenbarger, prob.....4,344

This was a peculiar campaign. The democrat party split wide open by reason of Bryan and his followers supporting the populists the year before. Maxwell, who was the nominee of the independent for supreme judge, they would not endorse or support. Yet they were certainly aware of the fact that their action in nominating Phelps would elect Norval and that they had no earthly show to elect him. They said "we must find out who is the democrat party in Nebraska."

They found out and the people lost their judge and it developed that Phelps 10,000 votes added to Maxwell's which have secured his election.

1896—Total vote 230,795. The campaign of '96 is as yet to vivid in the minds of the people for me to spend many moments in rehearsing some of its features. Nevertheless I will make a few comments.

In the first place Nebraska has increased her vote form 214,072 cast in 1890, when powers and the amendment had to be defeated at all hazards, to 230,795, and this in the face of the fact that the state had been depopulated of thousands of its settlers by reason of failures in crops and inability to procure employment in the cities.

One more remarkable finding. Douglas county has up to this last election been unable to come within 1000 of polling as many votes as it did six years ago. Now this may not seem strange to an Omaha anti-amendment and anti-Powers man but it does look strange to a man in the South Platte country.

1897—Total vote.....230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1898—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1899—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1900—Total vote on governor. Richards rep.....68,878 Boyd dem.....71,331 Powers ind.....70,187 Paine prob.....3,676

1901—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1902—Total vote on governors 196,000. Crouse rep.....78,000 Van Wyck ind.....68,000 Morton dem.....44,000 Bentley prob.....6,000

1903—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1904—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1905—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1906—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1907—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1908—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1909—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1910—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1911—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1912—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1913—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1914—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1915—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1916—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1917—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1918—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1919—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1920—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1921—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1922—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1923—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1924—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1925—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1926—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1927—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1928—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1929—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1930—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1931—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1932—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1933—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1934—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1935—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1936—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1937—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1938—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1939—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1940—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1941—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1942—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1943—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1944—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1945—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1946—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1947—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1948—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1949—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1950—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1951—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1952—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1953—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1954—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1955—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1956—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1957—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1958—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1959—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1960—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1961—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1962—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1963—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1964—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1965—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1966—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1967—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1968—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1969—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1970—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1971—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1972—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1973—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1974—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1975—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,357

1976—Total vote 203,852. For governor: Majors, rep.....94,613 Holcomb, ind.....57,815 Sturdevant, dem., (gold).....6,985 Gerard, prob.....4,359

1977—Total vote 230,795. For governor: Harrison, rep.....108,000 Cleveland, ind.....80,000 Prohibition, prob.....9,000

1978—Total vote 197,000. Harrison electors received.....108,000 Cleveland electors received.....80,000 Prohibition electors received.....9,000

1979—Total vote 169,000. This year a supreme judge and district judge and regents were elected.

Norval rep received.....91,470 Ames dem received.....72,442 Wigton prob received.....5,821

1980—Total vote 155,000. Supreme Judge Post rep.....76,447 Supreme Judge Edgerton ind.....72,311 Supreme Judge Rittenbender prob.....7,322

1981—Total vote 181,000. Harrison, rep, received.....72,032 Holcomb, ind., received.....65,666 Irvine, dem, received.....37,544 Rittenbender, prob, received.....6,3