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POPULIST FIELD DAY

The Republicans Routed, the Governor Sustained and a Sifting Committee Appointed.

COMMISSIONERS DROPPED

Report of the Investigating Committee, Republican Hypocrisy Shown up.

Go for Supreme Court!

Thursday was a great day for populism in the Nebraska legislature. The first thing that startled the republican managers was the appointing of a sifting committee by a vote of the house, thus taking the appointment away from the speaker. The old gang that has run things whenever the republicans have had the legislature had fixed up a scheme to appoint such a committee all republicans, with possibly one fusionist and give them complete control of legislation for the rest of the term. There are 300 bills on the house calendar and unless power is invested somewhere to make selections from these bills the legislature would not get through in six months. When the resolution to appoint such a committee, giving the fusionists fair representation on it, with the names of the committee inserted in it, was presented and the motion was put and carried, six republicans voting with the fusionists, the old republican bosses were driven frantic.

Their frenzy was increased when the committee to investigate whether any of the state officers had been riding on passes and charging mileage up to the state reported. The majority report sounded like one of Joe Johnson's press letters. The committee finding that there was no evidence to sustain such a charge, got off a tirade such as was very common during the last campaign and it fell awful flat. The minority report by Mr. Staggie was a stinger. Its exposure of republican hypocrisy made even some of the old case hardened corporation agents fidgety in their seats.

Then came the vote on the governor's veto of the bill to continue the supreme court commissioners. When the vote was counted and it was seen that the republicans didn't even have a majority in favor of over riding it, let alone the constitutional two-thirds required, the republican war horses who had fought in the interest of the plutocrats and corporations "for twenty years" began to think that the day of judgment had come sure enough.

The next thing that happened to them was the adoption of a resolution to investigate the supreme court. By that time the republican crowd had become so demoralized that they could hardly put up a fight at all, and the resolution passed by a large majority. About that time the republican leaders began to think that their party had no future in this state and they let loose the vials of their wrath on each other heads in a way that was very comforting to men who want honest government.

After getting up and shaking themselves to find out whether they were really there and not in bed dreaming bad dreams, they concluded to call a caucus. They held the caucus at night and any ordinary man could smell brimstone for a block in each direction from the meeting place. It didn't do any good. The supreme court will be investigated. The sitting committee will stand. The following is Mr. Staggie's minority report from the committee to investigate whether state officers had traveled on passes and charged mileage to the state.

Mr. Speaker: I am unable to join in the majority report of the committee appointed to investigate the charge that state officers collected mileage from the state for trips taken on passes furnished by the railroad companies for the reason that said report contains many statements unsupported by the testimony and omits many conclusions which the testimony warrants.

I concur, however, in the finding of the majority that ex-Governor Holcomb, Secretary of State Porter, Treasurer Meserve, Superintendent Jackson, Attorney-General Smith, Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings Wolf, Secretaries of the Board of Transportation Dahman, Laws and Edgerton, have not at any time during their official career charged the state for mileage, except where they actually paid the cash for the mileage charged.

The finding that state Oil Inspector Edmisten charged the state for mileage when he did not expend any money therefor, but instead rode on a pass is not supported by any testimony in the record. Mr. Edmisten was asked whether or not he actually paid the railroads for the mileage charged and he said he did. He was further asked

whether or not he rode on a pass and charged the state for fare and he answered, "no." To the question whether he rode on passes he refused to make answer on the ground that the question was outside the scope of the resolution under which the committee was acting. If the committee thought it was entitled to his answer and that if the answer was given it would tend to show that he had ridden on passes and charged the state for mileage for such rides the committee knew how to get the answer but they took no steps in that direction. Having not done so they have no right, I submit, to imagine what the answer would be and then predicate thereon a finding to the effect that Mr. Edmisten's testimony is not true. The uncontradicted testimony of Mr. Edmisten shows that he never charged the state for one penny of mileage except in the cases where he actually paid for the mileage charged.

The finding that Governor Holcomb during his term received passes from the railroads is without any support in the record. Who, among the witnesses examined, says he received such passes? not one. Then by what authority did the committee find that he did? The fact that other state officers received passes does not prove that he received them; unless it be true that where it is proved that one man did an act it necessarily follows that some other man did a like act. That such is not true and that such reasoning involves an absurdity is too plain to admit of controversy. But since the majority have so found and have applied that peculiar line of reasoning to the other ex-state officials, why, I ask, did they not apply the same line of reasoning to the other ex-state officials who served with Governor Holcomb during his first term? The record shows that these latter officials charged large sums for traveling expenses, which is shown in detail as follows:

A. R. Humphrey, ex-Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, 1891.....	\$1,000.00
A. R. Humphrey, ex-Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, 1893.....	\$500.00
H. C. Russell, ex-Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, 1895.....	\$400.00
T. H. Benton, ex-Auditor Public Accounts, 1891.....	\$200.00
George H. Hastings, ex-Attorney General, 1891.....	\$400.00
A. K. Gandy, ex-Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1891.....	\$300.00
Board of Transportation, 1891.....	\$1,000.00
Board of Transportation, 1895.....	\$300.00
Board of Public Lands and Buildings, 1891.....	\$1,000.00
Board of Public Lands and Buildings, 1893.....	\$500.00
Board of Public Lands and Buildings, 1895.....	\$300.00

If the fact that other State officers had passes during Governor Holcomb's last term proves that he also had passes during that term, why does not the same course of reasoning lead to the conclusion that his associates during his first term also had passes and applying to them the same method of reasoning applied to Edmisten, does it not follow that they rode on passes and charged the State large sums for mileage, much more by an hundred fold than was charged by any of the present State officers?

And if the Committee was disposed to go further along these lines it would have discovered that ex-Attorney General Churchill, who held office with Governor Holcomb, charged for traveling expenses and mileage \$437.10.

The Committee's finding that the State officers had an unlimited supply of passes is not supported by the evidence. Especially is this true of the finding that they admitted that they had such a supply. The testimony may be raked through from one end to the other without finding a particle of evidence to sustain this latter conclusion. The truth is on this record that whatever passes they received were delivered to them unsolicited and in accordance with what appears to be a long established custom.

We deny that the Committee had any authority to inquire whether or not the State officers or State employees had received passes from the Railroad Companies. The Committee was not appointed for that purpose. The purpose of its appointment was to enquire whether or not these officers and employees had been receiving mileage from the State in cases in which no money was expended by them for mileage. But since the Committee assumed to go outside of its just line of inquiry why did it not find what the evidence clearly shows, except in one instance to be noted later on, that not a single State officer ever used one of these passes for his own benefit, but that when they were used they were used for the benefit of the State; that thousands of dollars were thus saved to the State; that the officers receiving the passes got no benefit from them and therefore that they were in no way obligated to the railroads by the receipt of them; that the State alone got the benefit of the passes and hence that the State and not the officers is obligated to the railroad companies for them.

The Committee in justice to these State officers, since it determined to go into the pass question at all, should have asked whether these officers ever neglected their duties in any way with respect to the railroads. If the Committee had done so it would have found that the people's interests were carefully protected and in no case neglected.

The Board of Equalization notwithstanding the reduced value of all other kinds of property increased the total valuation of railway property in this State \$684,228.80.

While under the management of the high priced republican officials the maximum freight rate cases were conducted so that a clause crept into the statute which practically deprived the Legislature forever of the power of regulating in any way freight rate charges in this State.

(Continued on third page.)

STANDARD OIL TRUST

How George Rice has Fought it for Twenty Years Without Gaining an Inch.

COURTS ARE FOR THE TRUST

A Bribe of \$500,000 Offered for Attorney General of the State of Ohio.

The Trust Triumphs.

The corruption of the courts and the control of the railroads by private parties are the two things that has enabled Rockefeller to build up the most gigantic monopoly that the world ever saw. An appeal to the courts has always been useless. A plutocratic judge is quick to issue an injunction against a labor organization and there is never any time lost in putting it in force, but when it comes to the Standard Oil company, that is another thing altogether. The fight that the attorney general of the state of Ohio has been making has attracted the attention of the whole country, but it will probably be futile. Behind the attorney general stands George Rice who has been fighting Rockefeller for twenty years but always without success. Rockefeller will never be downed until there is a change of the administration at Washington, for the United States government in reality stands back of him always and all the time.

Rice was born in Vermont, but when a young man went to Ghens Falls, N. Y., with his parents and began his business life there as the proprietor of a general store, says the N. Y. Journal. The discovery of oil tempted him to new ventures. He gave up his store and went into the oil business, as he saw there were fortunes in it. He bought and sold oil wells. He produced and sold oil. He made money. Then he decided to start a refinery. This change was decided upon twenty years ago. He saw that the Standard Oil Company, even then mighty, was rapidly extending its influence. He saw that millions ought to be made. He built his refinery at Marietta, O., which was a good receiving and distributing point.

He began with a capacity of 50,000 barrels and energetically sent out traveling salesmen and established agencies. The Standard was annoyed at his temerity. It could not understand how a new refinery dared start at the very time that refiner after refiner was being bought or crushed. Negotiations were attempted. He was given a chance to sell and close up. He was told that it was best for him to accept the proposals.

At a remarkable meeting with John D. Rockefeller five months ago the great magnate reminded Rice of these warnings and told him that it would have been better had he accepted them.

But Rice did not accept, and a storm of persecution burst upon him. The Standard is an octopus with a myriad of arms. It muddles the water in an effort to hide what it is doing. Some of its tentacles are courts, some are legislatures, some are corporations and business houses which are Standard Oil Company in fact, but are under different names. Rice was attacked by all of these in turn.

Freight discriminations were first secured against him, and he went to Columbus, the State capital, in 1879 and 1880, appeared before legislative committees, and tried to get laws passed. He did not succeed. He found that he was paying on one road 35 cents a barrel, where the Standard paid but 10 cents. He next tried State courts in vain.

In 1885 he went to the United States Court for relief, but found none. In 1886 he appeared before the Attorney-General with a demand that the charters of two roads be forfeited for discrimination. He showed that he was paying from 50 to 100 per cent more than the other refiners in his district, all of which were controlled by the Standard. He got no relief.

In spite of opposition his energy had built up his business to a capacity of 100,000 barrels from 50,000, but now his trade began to show the effects of the assault. Rice's agencies were attacked as the agencies of other rivals had been, and in town after town, rival stores, fully stocked with oil and groceries and general goods, were established by Standard agents, and sold everything below cost till the offending dealer was forced to go out of business because no one went into his store to buy goods.

At least three-fourths of Rice's agencies were by this and other methods forced to quit. Most of his workmen were discharged and his refinery turned out but little oil. He almost defaulted.

The Interstate Commerce law was passed and Rice began to battle with renewed energy. His failure with courts had not disheartened him.

He took case after case before the Commission and proved his points time after time. Usually the Commission found that it had no power to aid him or that it issued some decree that was either ignored or else evaded by some new scheme. "In all, including cases heard before the Interstate Commerce Commission,"

said Mr. Rice yesterday, "I have brought cases directly against from twenty-five to thirty railroads, and indirectly against nearly 100, for discriminating in favor of the Standard."

"It is through discrimination in freight rates that the Standard Oil Company gains a great many of its ends."

"According to Poor's Manual of Railroads, officials of the Standard Oil Company number one-fifth of the total number of railroad officials and directors in this entire country. And their hidden power in the railroads is vastly more." Three years ago it seemed as if Rice was finally beaten. He shut down his refinery. He has not since started it. It is falling to ruin on the banks of the Ohio.

Then it was that he planned his last and most dangerous attack on the Standard. It was when he was a ruined man that he struck most dangerously. There is in Ohio an Anti-Trust law, and under that law, in 1892, the Standard Oil Trust, as distinguished from the Standard Oil Company, was ordered to discontinue operations.

No one believed that the decree was observed, but it was left for Rice to secure the necessary evidence to prove this. In October of 1897 he entered formal complaint with Attorney-General Munn, stating that the Standard Oil Trust, operating illegally, had ruined his business. He charged conspiracy and said the Trust had never obeyed the court decree.

The hearing is still in progress and will continue for some weeks to come. The oil of the Standard was not used to lubricate the wheels of justice. Instead the case has been retarded. But although the wheels of justice have been grinding slowly, they threatened to grind so exceedingly small that the Standard at length began to feel afraid.

A number of Standard men, minor officials, recently fled to West Virginia to avoid the service of papers upon them.

And, most startling of all, there came the offer of a \$500,000 bribe if the Attorney-General would see to it that all proceedings under the complaint filed by Rice be stopped.

Last October, in this city, he and John D. Rockefeller met face to face. "We are getting to be old men, you and I," said the possessor of countless millions. "We should not fight each other. Remember that I told you this fifteen years ago."

"No, I will keep right on," replied Rice, as he reluctantly took the hand of the other offered.

"You are trifling your life away," said Rockefeller. "You, John D. Rockefeller, have ruined me!" cried Rice.

The meeting was in a public place and bystanders heard every word.

Rice thus expressed yesterday the principles for which he has fought so long and is still fighting.

"This is not a free country, if trusts are to be allowed to act as the Standard has acted toward me and so many others."

"I have had no help from Government. I feel like a man who is held up by highwaymen, and who resists as best he can, while the police look carelessly on."

"My contest has been for the simple right to do business freely in the United States, without interfering with others, and without having others interfere with me."

DIDN'T ARRIVE

Editor Independent:

Notice on the wrapper of our paper says time's up. Yes we are aware of the fact, but it is not possible to make any payment just at the present. We are also aware that prosperity has not yet arrived. The discharge of the volunteers brings a few cents into use but it takes so much to get even a little that it looks like it would take all the corn in the crib or all the grain in the granaries. Much more so when there is barely enough to keep things going on the farm. Plenty of hands and plenty of work and an offer of 50 cents per day when you can get a days work which is very seldom. No money to pay with, corn 25 cents per bushel, not much hiring done, offer \$13 to \$15 per month all good days. So if a fellow got 18 days from the 1st of a month to the end he would still lack 8 days of having worked a month.

Billy McKinley said he would rather die than be responsible for an unholy war. If shooting the Philippines is not an unholy war, pray you tell what it takes to constitute an unholy war, and his administration will be a failure so far as the majority are concerned, so I believe, I will send you your dues just as soon as possible.

No socialism here. We think much of the independent and hope it may live long and do a mighty work in the reform field. If we were not so dogged and poor I would get several copies to give to my neighbors. I loan our paper out all I can. It makes me sick to think the gallant and faithful Allen is represented by an old gold bug slyster. The loss is most irreparable. How could those people in our Nebraska permit such folly? Hope it may never occur again.

W. F. FETTERMAN,
Piley, Mo.

Ian MacLaren's New Work.

Ian MacLaren, who is now on a lecture tour in this country, begins in an early issue of the Ladies' Home Journal his latest piece of literary work. It is a series of popular articles in which he defines the relation that a minister holds in his congregation; how a preacher is helped by his people; how a congregation can make the most of a minister, and other phases of the most satisfactory attitude of a congregation to a pastor.

CAMPAIGN FUND SCHEME

Every Voter in the Party is Interested and Should Each One Contribute.

THE ONLY JUST WAY TO DO

Assessing Officeholders and Candidates is Wrong and leads to Many Evils.

A New Plan Outlined.

Editor Independent:

As a sort of supplement to the plan proposed in your issue of February 2 for a closer union of the reform parties through the adoption of the same platform by the vote of the people, the writer would offer the following suggestions for raising campaign funds which proceeds on similar lines as the plan for platform.

It is quite as important to have the funds with which to carry on this great fight against the United Syndicates of America as it is to have a platform. The republican party obtains its great funds from the corporations and trusts and those elected through the aid of those funds serve the trusts and monopolies more faithfully than ever slave served master, now, this is the people's fight and the funds to carry it on ought to come from the people; the burden of it ought to be borne equally, or as nearly so as possible. Every one who would regain and maintain his freedom, everyone who would have our government freed from the domination of corporate power, should feel it a sacred duty to contribute his mite toward the accomplishment of this great work.

Every voter in the reform forces ought to feel an interest in this cause to the extent of a nickel, a dime, or a quarter, and they do feel such interest, but no satisfactory system of allowing them to manifest such interest has been put in operation. We should not rely for funds upon contributions and assessments of candidates, clerks and employees. It is unequal and unjust to them and smacks too much of old party methods. It bankrupts the candidate and if he is elected he is placed under strong temptation to get it back by some hook or crook. If not elected, he has probably lost his business, or mortgaged his farm, and very likely plunges deeper into the political whirlpool and pulls wires to get the nomination next time. It is a system unworthy to be fostered by a party which believes in "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Good government is for the benefit of all and all should help to gain it. Herewith is respectfully submitted the following plan: Let the state chairman and secretary of the three reform parties, silver republicans, democrats and populist meet together and agree upon a uniform system to collect money from their voters in the various counties for campaign purposes. Let these officers send out printed slips of directions for carrying out the plan, or what is better small memorandum books with such directions printed thereon, to the chairman of the county central committee of the respective parties; he, in turn, sending them out to the township or precinct committee man directing him to appoint some reliable and energetic person in each school district, or in cities according to wards and precincts, to collect from ten cents to any amount more than each may be willing to give. The printed slip should instruct the collector to give receipts for the sums and designate the contribution as silver republican, democrat or populist. Each party may select a person to go among its own voters, or all three may unite upon one person to solicit in a district, that depending upon the good judgement of the committees. The person selected should be one enthusiastic and willing; one well liked and well known. If men are too busy, there are lots of women, young girls and boys who would gladly do it, and be proud of being thus recognized by their party. Party leaders think too little of women's help. There are plenty of farmers' and mechanic's wives and pretty daughters who could collect a campaign fund that would shake the very throne of the standard oil trust.

There are 100,000 voters in the reform forces of Nebraska. Ten cents a piece from them would bring a fund that would conduct such a campaign as we have never seen. To do this the plan should be set in operation early so that the funds raised may be all turned in by the time the state convention meets and the state committee may know just what work it can plan. One of the most potent causes of ineffective work and defeat is that the campaign committees do not have funds and do not get to work until the election is fairly upon them and the time is so short to do good work.

The collecting ought to be done as early as May or June and all memorandum books and money returned to the township or precinct committees. By June 15 they should meet with their county committees, foot up the amounts and turn over to the person selected to receive it, who should give receipt. This person should report to the state committee the amount on hand, who should agree upon what amount is to go to each party and what percentage is to be retained for county campaign work. At county conventions when delegates are

elected to the state convention, let one be selected to carry the money to state committee from whom he receives a receipt therefor. In this way the funds are properly credited to the sections sending them. Then let the convention elect a reliable and efficient campaign financial manager to be responsible for and judiciously expend this money.

Let every voter support our cause by contributing a small sum and never failing to support his party papers and the people will win, for the voter who feels interested enough to do this will be very likely to go to the polls on election day.

HELEN M. GORF,
Lincoln, Neb.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

A few years ago the populist demand for postal savings banks was derided by every republican in the state. Last week, Elwood, a populist, introduced in the Nebraska house a resolution in favor of the populist demand and notwithstanding that body is largely republican it passed. The resolution was as follows:

Elwood of Antelope offered the following which was adopted:

Whereas, in all countries where a system of postal savings banks have been established it has proven to be a great benefit to the people, and believing it to be the duty of the United States to provide some safe place whereby depositors will be protected from loss; therefore,

Resolved, that it is the judgment of this house that we favor a system of postal savings banks, and we hereby request our members in congress to secure, if possible, the passage of a law at the next session of congress to put such a system in operation in all the states.

GREENE'S SUCCESSOR

Editor Independent:

It occurs to me that the sudden and unexpected demise of our able and beloved statesman, jurist and patriot, W. L. Greene, the peoples choice is the big Sixth district as their representative in the lower house of congress, thus leaving this district without representation, that it would not be out of place to look over the field for substantial material to fill said vacancy. Let the people of the Sixth district (not a gang of politicians) speak through the columns of the Independent, who should finish the work so ably begun by our late and deceased member. I know of one man who would be able to finish the work of representing the great common people of the big Sixth, or rather this whole country of ours. And in that man I believe the people have entire confidence of his ability and integrity. We elected his governor twice and can elect him to congress more than twice. Elias A. Holcomb would be a fitting representative in memory of our beloved Greene. It would be doing honor to the dead congressman and justice to the living workman. Dawes county would do the right thing by him, and the people of the Sixth district would be represented in truth and in fact.

There is grave need for such a man in congress. Imperialism, and the destruction of the legal tender quality of the silver dollar, silver dollar certificates, coin treasury note and the green-back should not be forced upon the people without a dissenting voice. Greene's spirit will be there, but not alone, for he will have with him such as Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Chase, Stephens, Logan, Wade, Morton, Garfield, Blaine et al. to watch the last act of a republic. May God grant that the Hannans, the Elkins, the Belmonts the Cleveland, the Thurstons and the McKineys will return to the principles of the fathers and refuse to sell and to be sold to the money lords of this country and Europe. What a loss to the Sixth district, for it not to be able to send that noble man, ex-Senator Wm. V. Allen to the lower house. His recognized ability and his integrity might save the people from witnessing this last act of a republic.

True, there are other good men in this district, such as M. F. Harrington, J. H. Edmisten, H. G. Stewart, R. G. Fairchild and others that Dawes county populists would stand by in memory of W. L. Greene.

What rejoicing there must be among the money changers to know that Allen is not a resident of the Sixth district of Nebraska. Let all counties speak upon this subject. May God awaken the people to see their imminent danger.

I. N. HANBAUGH,
Chadron, Neb.

The thing above all other things that has held India, bound hand and feet, and prevented any advancement for ages, has been its system of caste. But the same thing in another form is fast gaining a foothold in the United States. Once we had doctors who treated every ill that the family was subject to, but now a family must have a half a dozen doctors. There must be one for the eye, one for the ear, one for nervous diseases, one for female complaints, one for catarrh, one for surgical operations and so on ad infinitum. Each one of these doctors form a cast by themselves and know nothing but their own specialty. So it is in the law, in all of the sciences and in mechanics. All of these men are narrow and incomplete men, the very nature of the system makes them so, just as much as the cast in India made the men of that country. A wide grasp of human nature is impossible in any one of them. They are confined in the iron mould of cast just as firmly as was ever a Hindu.