

The Nebraska Independent.

The Wealth Makers and Lincoln Independent Consolidated.

VOL. XI.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1899.

NO. 12

WELCOME HOME.

The Speech of Governor Poynter to the First Nebraska When They Landed at San Francisco.

"As the official representative of the great state of Nebraska, which we all so much love and within whose borders are our homes, I come to offer you this greeting, and to welcome you upon your return to your native land. With pride the people of Nebraska saw you depart and their prayers and good wishes went with you. With joy they hail your return and award to you due praise and honor for the splendid manner in which you have acquitted yourselves and added new luster to the already bright name of Nebraska.

"When you entered the service of our country no needed questions were asked as to either your religious or political views. You went out pledged to do your duty, and all the people of Nebraska are proud of you today, since upon no occasion did you ever fail in line of duty. To them, during all these long, weary months, you have been Nebraska boys, and returning now you are thought and spoken of as Nebraska boys in whom all the state feel a pardonable pride. And when you reach Nebraska you will find prepared for you there such a welcome as will in some measure indicate to you the gladness to which your home coming is hailed by all the people. You will find there, as when you went away every shade of religious sentiment such as can be found in every progressive country. You will find, as when you went away, political differences and parties contenting with the same earnestness for the maintenance of party policies, which have ever characterized Nebraska's intelligent people, but upon one subject, votaries of every creed and people of every party stand together, with no division of sentiment. They are all proud of Nebraska's fighting first.

"The military arm of our government is of entirely different character from that of other nations. We do not now, nor has it ever been our policy to depend upon a standing army. When need arises for military equipment a response has always been irresistible because they are composed of men who are themselves a part of that government they are called upon to sustain. As a nation we take pride in the glorious deeds of our ancestors, the heroes of '76. Of their own will they took up arms in the cause of human liberty, and having wrested from the mother country by their bravery and sacrifice the right to establish a government and show to the world a new flag, they laid down their arms and took up the task of building that government and of making that flag the standard of power as it was the emblem of freedom. Again in 1812, our fathers left the peaceful walks of citizenship and taught England a proper respect for the rights of the young republic upon the high seas.

"The mighty armies which engaged in that awful struggle in '61 and '65 on both sides were volunteer soldiers, and Americans. No such conflict had ever before been witnessed. The conflict ended, the government of Washington sustained, the eternal principles of the Declaration of Independence made to apply to all men without distinction of color or condition, our flag firmly established as the glorious emblem of liberty, those great armies disbanded and took up the peaceful pursuits of citizenship. All history records no braver or grander army enduring the hardships of camp and field, nor braver citizens returning to the walks of private life. It has ever been the boast of our republic that in times of war every citizen is a soldier; in times of peace every soldier is a citizen. Our government is founded upon the intelligence of its people. That intelligence is nowhere displayed to better advantage than in our volunteer army.

"Men of the First Nebraska, you have again demonstrated the fighting qualities of the American volunteers. Your state stands first in the rank of broad intelligence of all the sisterhood of states, and no regiment outranks you in hard service of all who answered the call of '98. Your decorated ranks testify to your faithful discharge of your duty as soldiers, and as the chief executive of your state I say to you, Nebraska is proud of her sons. While we extend glad greetings upon your return to your native land, with sorrow we miss many who will never return to us. Young lives full of promise have gone out and for these we mourn. But they still will not be forgotten. When the spring time comes and our people gather to strew flowers upon the dead heroes of '61 and '65, the young heroes of '98 and '99 will be remembered. The granite shaft and the marble column will be reared in their memory, but the more fitting monument will be in the hearts and memories of their comrades and people.

"You will soon direct yourselves of the livery of your country which you have worn with such distinguished honor to your state, and take your place with the great body through who are building up our great public institutions and developing her resources. We gladly welcome your assistance in this work. Nothing is so much in demand today as men, broad minded men, men of thought, men of action. We know that those who have displayed such loyalty and devotion to duty that has ever characterized the men of the First Nebraska will show the same devotion and loyalty in the exercise of citizenship.

"Again, as chief executive of our great state, in behalf of all the citizens of our state, in ever-ready, both religious and political, I extend to you thanks and hearty appreciation for your splendid

bravery and the distinction you have brought to the state by your constant and unwavering devotion to duty." At the conclusion three terrific cheers and a tiger were given, and the boys marched to their camp.

KANSAS PATRIOTS

Some of the principal howlers of the republican party in Kansas have been making an assault upon the commissioner of pensions because he won't increase their pensions. The commissioner gets back at them by giving their official record. This is what he has to say of two of them.

"P. H. Coney was a member of the 11th New York, serving in Company H. He enlisted as a drummer and went into the army under the bounty act, receiving \$400 for his enlistment. He receives \$14 per month pension, the number of his pension certificate being 261439. He enlisted under the Bounty Act of Jan. 18; 1864."

"Mr. Coulter, too, enlisted under the bounty act and received the bounty of \$400. Mr. Coulter was in Company I, Fifth Illinois. He was pensioned under the act of 1890, which provides that soldiers suffering from permanent disability, or in other words, total disability, shall be entitled to a pension. Under the Cleveland administration Mr. Coulter's pension was reduced from \$12 per month, the amount he received in the original issue, to \$8 per month. He has complained about this many times and has long been making an effort to have the original amount restored."

"Mr. Coulter has twice been cited to appear before an examining board but he has declined to do so. He desires to be reinstated without submitting to an examination, which is in violation of the rules of the department. Were he examined and shown to be totally disabled then the pension would be restored to the amount fixed by the law."

Of course there are none of that kind of patriots in the republican ranks in Nebraska.

"IT IS SAID"

James K. Jones, national democratic chairman, is said to be one of the largest stock holders in the cotton compress trust and W. J. Bryan is going over the country denouncing trusts. Now if Mr. Bryan is chosen leader of reform forces in 1900, will he be willing to have Jones for chairman again. If he is willing can his utterances about trusts be said to be sincere and will democracy thus court hypocrisy and give the republicans a club to pound reformers with. Stone Clark and other democratic leaders they say hold trust certificates. Nevertheless I surmise they will "whoop up Bryan and Democracy" just the same.

R. ROWLAND, Bartlett, Neb. "It is said" that Bryan is worth a quarter of a million. "It is said" that every fusion official in the state house is a thief and a defaulter. "It is said" that every man who has advocated reform is a fraud and a thief. We publish the above just to show how far this "it is said" can be used. The next democratic national convention will elect a new national committee and a new chairman as it has always done at every convention that it has ever held.

EPWORTH LEAGUE

Hundreds of people are flocking into Lincoln this week to attend the Epworth League, and there is no wonder that they flock here, for there are many distinguished ministers and orators of national fame who will be at the meetings and entertain the audience as audiences were never entertained here before. Among the number is Chaplain McCabe, Lincoln Park is white with tents and the street car line leading there is overflowing with passengers. It seems that every man who can leave his business has made up his mind to take it in. Besides that people are coming from everywhere. Go out and camp awhile.

MUSTER OUT AUG 23

The time set for the mustering out of the Nebraska boys is August 23.

ABOUT EXCHANGES

The Independent exchanges with nearly every free silver paper in the state of Nebraska. That alone is equal to some of the smaller country weeklies. It has been the policy of the management to do that, but the policy is liable to be changed if some of the unfairness of some of the small papers continues. There is one lying before us—The Dixon County Leader. In its editorial columns are three extracts from this paper. Two of them are credited to Ex., and one of them has no credit at all. Now it is of no advantage to this paper to receive the Dixon County Leader, and the sending of The Independent to it each week is a courtesy that ought to be returned in a self-respect way than that. That is not the only paper by any means that is in the habit of acting this way. The advertising that comes from credits is due to the paper from which the extracts are taken. The exchange list of The Independent is very large and it costs a good deal of money during the year. It is not a matter of pride or sentiment that causes this protest, but it is a matter of cost. A large number of papers in this state that reprint matter from The Independent are honest, but the quote that is not is also pretty large.

HOLCOMB REPLIES

He Gives the Mullet Head Committee Such a Blow That They Retire Into Noxious Seclusion.

The mullet head committee that recently visited Lincoln went up to the capitol one day last week and left a document lying on one of the tables in the executive department in which they say:

"The committee were unable to procure the attendance of A. C. Crandall to whom the first two warrants were issued, to ascertain the amount actually paid to him for rent, but giving the benefit of the doubt (what doubt?) to the vouchers as filed, and admitting that \$60 per month was the amount of rent actually received by him, it will be seen that \$775.20 of the amount set apart for the payment of house rent has been misappropriated by Gov. Holcomb, and your committee (whose committee?) would recommend that your excellency (whose excellency?) refer this matter to the attorney general with instructions to take such steps as may be necessary to recover from Mr. Holcomb the amount thus misappropriated."

This committee could very easily have found out if any money had been misappropriated if they had gone up to the auditor's office and looked over the public documents there on file. But they chose to summon witnesses who knew that these mullet heads had no authority in law to administer oaths or do anything else. To this slanderous charge Gov. Holcomb makes the following crushing reply:

As to the criticisms which have been made regarding the legislative appropriation for house rent, I submit the following statement:

The legislature of 1889 first made an appropriation for house rent for the governor. It appropriated \$2,000 for the period of two years. The appropriation became available April 1, 1889. On the 16th of the same month the entire sum of \$2,000 was drawn by Governor Thayer, who was then chief executive of the state. This sum, for the remainder of his term, was at the rate of a little over \$95 per month. I am not personally informed whether the governor lived in rented property or occupied a residence of his own.

In 1891 the legislature again appropriated \$2,000 for the biennium. This sum, except \$250, was drawn out by Governor Thayer and Governor Boyd, who each occupied the executive chair during the period covered by the appropriation. The funds appropriated were drawn quarterly at the rate of \$250 per quarter of \$625 per month. Governor Thayer drew \$500, \$250 May 12, 1891, and \$250 November 5, 1891. Governor Boyd drew \$1,250, \$250 being drawn on each of the following dates: April 29, 1891; March 26, 1892; April 28, 1892; July 2, 1892, and September 29, 1892. Just what disposition was made of these funds I am unable to speak from personal knowledge.

The legislature of 1893 made another appropriation of \$2,000, which was drawn by Governor Crouse. Governor Crouse did not, however, maintain a family residence in Lincoln during his term as governor.

The legislature of 1895 made an appropriation for house rent, but reduced the amount from \$2,000, the sum before appropriated, to \$1,500. I was then governor.

After a thorough search for a suitable residence, I selected property furnished and ready for occupancy belonging to Mr. Crandall and situated some ten blocks from the capitol. I resided in this property until the middle of October, 1895, and paid Mr. Crandall \$60 per month, and drew only this amount of money from the appropriation.

I then found I could secure a more desirable residence property a block further away, which to me and my family seemed more suitable to our needs. The house was somewhat larger, the rooms better arranged and the grounds much more spacious.

The house, however, had not been provided with modern conveniences. I arranged with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Gould, to take this property for a year in the condition in which it then was and to pay them therefor \$30 per month. I furnished and refitted the house throughout and was to pay for all expenses of repairs, improvements, caring for and keeping up the grounds and buildings on the premises.

This arrangement continued until December, 1896, or a little over one year. I drew from the appropriation for two and one-half months in 1895 at the rate of \$60 per month, the same amount I had been paying Mr. Crandall. I drew from the appropriation for 1896 \$650, or a little over \$54 per month.

I was unable to see them, and am now, how my actions in this regard could merit criticism if, by the change, I was enabled to procure a more suitable and satisfactory residence property and at a less expenditure from the appropriation than I was compelled to pay in the first instance.

I did not during this time draw more of the appropriation than I was justly entitled to. In fact, I drew less than I might have done with perfect propriety and entirely within the intention and spirit of the appropriation act.

In the fall of 1896 I had some changes made in the premises and made further arrangements with Mr. Gould for the continued occupancy of the premises.

During the year of 1897 I paid him for the use of the premises \$480, or \$40 per month, he paying for repairs, etc. I

drew this amount and no more from the appropriation for this year.

At the close of 1897 we made some further changes and remodeling of the premises and I arranged for the occupancy of the same for another year for the sum of \$50 per month. During the year 1898 and until the close of my term of office I drew from the appropriation \$633.80. I paid to Mr. Gould as rental this entire amount, except \$25.15 which I paid out for necessary repairs.

These appropriations were not drawn in advance, except during the year 1895, when I paid rental in advance to Mr. Crandall.

Of the first appropriation of \$1,500 \$190 was not used by me and lapsed into the treasury. At the close of my term of office there remained unexpended of the second appropriation \$506.70, or a total unexpended sum of the two appropriations of \$696.70. I endeavored to use these appropriations as economically as I would my private funds and feel that I have done so reasonably well.

I have used far less per month than any other governor of the state. Had I followed the precedent set by my predecessors and drawn all the appropriation, as having done a very proper act by those who are not criticizing.

If the contemptible little lies that have been displayed by the gentlemen responsible for the false reports and a partisan press should prevail, it probably would have been better for me to have gone to the suburbs of the city, rented a modest cottage of five or six rooms and maintained it as the residence of the chief executive of the state. But I do not believe such is the spirit of the fair-minded people of the state, nor was it the intention of the legislature making the appropriation.

SILAS A. HOLCOMB, Lincoln, Neb., July 27, 1899.

I am acquainted with ex-Governor Holcomb and have known him since his election as governor, and more intimately since he has been residing in property belonging to us and situated at 1745 A street. He began residing in this property the middle of October, 1895. I have read his public statement, under date of July 27, current month, regarding the use and rental of this property while governor, and the payment of rents and the expenses of repairs, etc., therefor, and find the same to be true and correct in all respects.

CHARLES M. GOULD.

Expenditures for Rent.

The following is a statement of appropriations made by the legislature of Nebraska to pay house rent for the governor and expenditures made from the same:

Appropriation for the biennium April 1, 1889, to March 31, 1891.....\$2,000 00

EXPENDITURES.

April 16, 1889, John M. Thayer, warrant No. 52313.....2,000 00

Appropriation for biennium April 1, 1891, to March 31, 1893.....2,000 00

EXPENDITURES.

April 29, 1891, James E. Boyd, warrant No. 64887.....\$250 00

May 12, 1891, John M. Thayer, warrant No. 65404.....250 00

November 5, 1891, John M. Thayer, warrant No. 69317.....250 00

March 26, 1892, James E. Boyd, warrant No. 71165.....250 00

April 28, 1892, James E. Boyd, warrant No. 71497.....250 00

July 2, 1892, James E. Boyd, warrant No. 71902.....250 00

September 29, 1892, James E. Boyd, warrant No. 72470.....250 00—1,750 00

Balance lapsed back into treasury.....\$ 250 00

Appropriation for the biennium April 1, 1895, to March 31, 1897.....\$1,500 00

EXPENDITURES.

May 2, 1895, Anna C. Crandall, warrant No. 96412.....\$180 00

July 11, 1895, Anna C. Crandall, warrant No. 98386.....180 00

September 30, 1895, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 99822.....180 00

March 3, 1896, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 92696.....350 00

December 29, 1896, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 97502.....350 00

August 27, 1897, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 914571.....120 00—1,310 00

Balance lapsed back into treasury.....\$ 190 00

Appropriation for the biennium April 1, 1897, to March 31, 1899.....\$1,500 00

EXPENDITURES.

December 24, 1897, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 917621.....\$300 00

May 26, 1898, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 921144.....250 00

August 8, 1898, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 927197.....100 00

December 21, 1898, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 925426.....300 00

January 7, 1899, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 925733.....83 30—933 30

Balance.....\$ 566 70

(Continued on Fifth page.)

News of the Week

The home coming of the First Nebraska is the only news that the people of this state have been interested in during the last few days. The Transport which brought them back came through the Golden Gate on last Saturday night. Governor Poynter and his staff went out in a boat in the middle of the night to give them greeting. They did not land until Monday morning. The nature of the greeting that they received is described by Germain Towle in a special dispatch to the World-Herald as follows:

San Francisco, Cal., July 31.—At 8:30 this morning the men of the First Nebraska and Utah batteries marched out to the covered transport dock to meet an ovation of which they perhaps had little dreamed, a deafening demonstration which hailed and welcomed them through the street and all the three-mile way to the Presidio.

As early as 8 o'clock the command was formed upon the wharf in heavy marching order, to be reviewed by Governor Poynter, and General Barry, while all San Francisco waited impatiently.

Outside Mrs. Van Pelt, out of a huge basket of flowers, placed a bright bouquet upon every dingy blanket roll.

The governor and his staff and the regimental staff and field officers were mounted on spirited cavalry horses, while six ambulances were filled with men who were not able to stand the long march.

Four batteries of the Third artillery, together with their band, acted as an escort, under command of Captain Pratt. They were stately assisted by a mounted troop of the Sixth cavalry, Colonel Stotsenberg's old regiment, which, in parade front, stood at present arms while the regiment passed.

Next to the escort came Governor Poynter, with General Barry and an orderly, bearing the blue sash state flag. They proceeded Colonel Mulford and his staff adjutant, Whedon, Major Snyder and Lieutenant McLaughlin.

The regiment, headed by the band, followed in company front order of battalions, Lieutenant Colonel Eager commanding the first, Major Taylor the second and Major Killian the third.

The San Francisco committee of arrangements had relays of men on watch, and simultaneously with the order to begin the march, whistles, bells, steam calliopes and mammoth sirens burst forth in tremendous uproar all over the city and bay.

The people crowded about the dock entrance, set up a wild cheer that was passed in growing volume up and down the densely packed lines as the head of the column and the first companies marched forth. The band played, but the welcome from thousands of throats drowned the music.

At the foot of Market street the dense crowd was a jam. Windows and roofs were peopled with faces that seemed all open mouths and waving flags. Dry goods boxes were piled in the street. Blocked cable cars were peopled over with a wriggling humanity, and from their places of vantage men and women yelled themselves hoarse and waved their arms wearily.

Many wept unconsciously while a thunderous refrain echoed untiringly, "Welcome, Nebraska, welcome home."

Two blocks farther on the men were decked with flowers, scarfed and much-used weapons of war were flung to the muzzle with bright blossoms of peas. They held their lips tight shut, looking as though they, too, were nearer tears than smiles.

Guns boomed amiably from the tops of sky scrapers, the cheering grew to a mighty thunder and many a face that was never known to change color under fire grew as pale as the white flowers in their button holes.

San Francisco seemed to have gone mad, all business was suspended. Dealers in fire-arms sent their employees out with guns and bowlers to add to the general cry of thankfulness.

The tall Examiner building was hung from basement to roof with hundreds of trains of firecrackers that were set off at once. When the men heard their sharp crackle, their eyes snapped for the first time. They nudged each other excitedly with their elbows.

"Guinevere," said one, "Marlino," whispered another. "That's February Fourth over again, fellows," shouted the irrepressible Hitecock of company G.

"Sounds more like Quinga, when the colonel was killed," objected a voice from "H."

Near the Chronicle building hardware merchants and bell manufacturers were making good use of their wares. Church bells and chimes were mounted in every front window from sidewalk to fifth story, and set furiously going. Strings of bells reaching from the roofs to the sidewalks jingled continuously. Cymbals were made of vast boiler covers and beaten to the time of the marching foot-steps. The steam whistles and sirens, too, caught the measure of the march and tooted in unison like the mighty throng of a great drum.

Soon a greater cheer, a wilder, louder cry burst from the thousands of throats. Side by side, carried by the color guard, came the tattered colors and the regimental standard of the colors, which the people of Nebraska presented to their regiments a year ago. But few battle-torn, yet proud tatters remain. Instinctively every head was bowed, men lifted their hats, women tore off their hats and bonnets and waved them frantically with tears in their eyes.

White haired old men pulled like mad crutches, and with flashing eyes turned to march abreast beside the color company. Veterans of years gone by join those of today in the steady tramp, tramp of the boys who are coming home.

"Just see that flag," passed from

month to month along the line of march. "The flag that was never defeated," came the response and the cheering was redoubled.

"You can see how much service each has seen," said men proudly to each other, for it was their country's flag. At one place a large banner hanging above the street bore the portraits of Colonels Stotsenberg and Mulford, with the words: "Welcome Nebraska and Utah battery volunteers."

Officers and men saluted the likeness of their martyred commander reverently in passing.

The ambulances following found their way a path of roses. Men did not cheer much as they passed, they lifted their hats and were silent. But thousands of women raised their voices in shrill hurrahs, the sweetest sound the soldiers have heard in many a month.

Immediately following came the Utah battery, marching along in triumphal procession to the Presidio.

GERMAINE TOWLE.

Interviews with most of the officers have been published. They all agree that it will take years of war and the sacrifice of many lives to conquer the Filipinos. Col. Mulford, after the hard fighting and losses of the regiment said: "I don't mind saying, just the same, that they don't want any more service. Only one man re-enlisted when the chance was offered. I don't care about circulating any one, only I think this regiment got more than its fair share of hard knocks."

Lt. Col. Eager said: "I do not believe the insurrection will be broken for several years, though a rebel army may not again take the field. Army organization is not the Filipino's strong point."

Major Killian said: "Hundreds of lives have been uselessly sacrificed in the last few months because the authorities persisted in accomplishing through men and rifles what a rapid-fire gun would have done in half the time without any of the loss of life. It is a shame and an outrage that this is true. Everyone knows the fact. Some one is responsible and should be held so. The lives of men are not lightly to be thrown away."

Capt. Archer said: "I can't say anything too good about the company. It had the most men on the firing line of any regiment. At Calumpit its force was down to thirty-five men, not half of them fit for duty. The entire army was at its worst plight at Calumpit. The twelve companies of the regiment did not contain 800 men all told. Only fourteen officers were then on duty, all the rest being sick. I wonder, think the First Nebraska exists today as an organization. Instead of being given rest after we got back from Calumpit, the regiment was marched up and through Manila to San Pedro Macar, where it remained on outpost duty until it was placed aboard the Hancock."

Many of the great dailies have sent special correspondents to San Francisco to write up the landing. Every state in the union desire to share in the glory won for the fighting American volunteer by the First Nebraska. The Chicago Record has the following about two of its officers: "The Nebraskans came home filled with reverence for the memory of the gallant Stotsenberg, the colonel whose heart was pierced by a Filipino bullet while he was leading his regiment in a desperate charge at the battle of Tanga. They believe he was the greatest soldier of them all. Before the first battle in which the Nebraskans were engaged Stotsenberg was personally hated by nearly every man in the regiment. He came out of that engagement their hero—a leader whom the rank and file of all the regiments would have followed into the cannon's mouth. One of the most interesting personages on the Hancock is Lieut Colonel Eager, who went to Manila as adjutant of the first battalion of Nebraska volunteers. Eager is only 26 years of age, the youngest officer of his rank in the service. Mrs. Eager, the colonel's mother, had come all the way from Lincoln, Neb., to welcome her son."

Chico-Japanese Alliance Denied. PHOENIX, Aug. 1.—The rumors regarding the formation of a China-Japanese alliance are semi-officially denied, and it is asserted that the envoys recently sent to Tokyo were appointed simply to seek to prove the friendly relations between the powers.

Abnormal Cleverness. BRIDGE—That Pinkney girl is awfully clever. Wagley—Yes, she's unnaturally smart. Briggs—What makes you think so? Wagley—I've seen her sharpening a lead pencil—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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