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ROBBER RAILROADS.

They Raise the Fare \$10.00 and Demand Cash in Advance From the Boys of the First Nebraska.

For the last ten days Gov. Poynter has devoted most of his time to trying to raise a fund to bring the First Nebraska home on a special train. Monday night he had to give up. He issued the following statement to the people of this state in regard to the matter.

"OMAHA, NEB., Aug. 18.—To the people of the State of Nebraska: It is with profound regret that I am compelled to announce to the people of Nebraska that the members of the First Nebraska regiment at San Francisco will not be brought home at public expense. Appreciating the splendid record made by this regiment and observing that other states were preparing to return their regiments on special trains, I conceived it to be my duty as governor of Nebraska to take advantage of every plan and exhaust every resource in the effort to accord due honor to Nebraska's regiment. I have exhausted every resource and every possible plan has been devised and worked to an unsuccessful conclusion in the hope that Nebraska, in its attitude towards the soldiers, should occupy a position second to no other state. I therefore deem it my duty to make a plain statement of facts.

"While in San Francisco I commissioned Adjutant General Barry and Congress-man Stark to take steps for the purpose of returning the Nebraska soldiers on special trains at public expense. It developed that the rate for soldiers from San Francisco to the Missouri river prior to May 1 was \$25 per man. It also developed that this rate had been increased to \$37.50 per man. This was second class accommodations with a tourist sleeper at \$10 per section. Thus the soldier's rate including sleeper would be \$40.53 per man. Every possible effort was made at San Francisco to obtain a reduction on this rate, but this was without avail.

"I concluded that more effective work might be done at the Nebraska end of the line. After returning home I took up the work with the railroads. I made every possible effort to induce the railroad managers to return the soldiers and to accept a claim against the state. It was made apparent very early in the proceedings that the railroad managers would not accept a claim against the state but would require a cash payment. I then asked the co-operation of newspapers for the purpose of obtaining an answer from individual citizens.

"While this plan was being agitated I continued my efforts with the railroads. At my request Congressman Stark called upon the president of the Union Pacific and the general manager of the B. & M. It is due to history to say that Congressman Stark received scant courtesy at the Union Pacific headquarters, and it will be entirely correct to say that he was subject to extreme discourtesy at the hands of the president of the Union Pacific.

BURLINGTON COURTESY.

"The Burlington officials were entirely courteous and showed a willingness to at least give consideration to Nebraska's proposition. The B. & M. managers made a written proposal offering to return the Nebraska soldiers at a rate of \$47.50 without the tourist sleeper. The Union Pacific had no proposition to make. The passenger agent of that road subsequently visited Lincoln and called upon me, but submitted no offer than to say that the rates 'as agreed upon' were \$37.50.

"Finally I had a conference with an agent of the Santa Fe road and that official seemed anxious to come to terms. He visited Omaha, however, and had a conference with railroad officials in that city, after which he concluded, as one railroad agent explained it to me, 'He did not want the business.'

"Having exhausted every effort to induce the railroads to carry the train by accepting a claim against the state for all the money, I offered to pay \$10,000 in cash. This offer was rejected. Having been assured of \$10,000 from the guarantee fund provided by the newspapers, I determined to make an effort to obtain the \$25,000 additional. From one citizen of Nebraska whose name I am not at liberty to give, I had the assurance of \$5,000 more should be obtained. I applied to the moneyed men of Lincoln but they declined to make the advance. I came to Omaha and had a consultation with the bankers of this city. After an extended conference I was informed that the way by which this money could be obtained would be on a bankable note at 6 per cent. I offered to all of these gentlemen, as I had offered to the railroads, my promise to ask the legislature to reimburse them by the payment of the principal advanced, together with 4 per cent interest. This was the last resort and the result was failure.

"I desire to return thanks to the generous people of this state who would have co-operated in this good effort and who have offered to advance their own money for the accomplishment of this wise purpose. I am satisfied the time is not far distant when all Nebraskans will regret the failure of this state to accord the Nebraska regiment the same practical honors that have been given by other states to their regiments.

"In this connection I desire to say that the railroads operating in Nebraska have shown that they are more interested in adhering to these so-called 'traffic agreements,' otherwise known as unholy combinations, than they are in advancing either the general interests of Nebraska

or in giving encouragement to practical patriotism. The Minneapolis Times is authority for the statement that a rate has been secured for the Minnesota troops of \$30.80. These troops must travel about 250 miles further than the Nebraska troops and yet \$37.50 is the lowest to be obtained for the Nebraska troops. I caused inquiry to be made at the Minneapolis Times as to the identity of the road making this rate, and the reply returned is as follows:

"The Times made private rate. Not at liberty as yet to state route."

"I have also learned that in the city of Omaha any one may purchase over either the B. & M. or the Union Pacific a second class ticket from Omaha to San Francisco for \$32.50, and yet the Nebraska soldiers returning from the Philippines must pay \$37.50 for second class ticket from San Francisco to Omaha. It may not be important to inquire how happens this discrimination. I am satisfied that it is to Nebraska's interests, that the soldiers be returned at public expense. I have no patience with those hours that are limited to empty words.

"I would not erect a triumphal arch for these boys to march under after they had been required to pay their own fare home, while the soldiers of other states are returning on special trains. I would prefer to pay them a tribute that means something. I would prefer they be spared the humiliation of returning at their own expense while soldiers of other states travel on special trains at public expense.

"I have exerted my best efforts to provide a practical demonstration of the fact that Nebraska is proud of its soldiers. Although these efforts have resulted in repeated failures I do not regret them for I have done only that which I conceived to be my duty. I am sure, also, the people of Nebraska will as a whole deeply regret the failure, but they may be consoled by the reflection that their good purpose has been thwarted only by a combination of railroad companies, a combination that is plainly unlawful as it is unpatriotic. In conclusion I desire to express my heartfelt thanks to the Omaha World-Herald, the Nebraska State Journal, the Nebraska City News and the Beatrice Daily Express for their splendid co-operation in this work.

W. A. POYNTER.

This shot seemed to go home. There was a great uproar as soon as it was printed and a hurrying to and fro among the railroad men and bankers. Gen. Manderson came to the aid of the roads with an argument to show why they could not do differently from what they had done. He also put in a few good words for the bankers. The railroads are very fortunate in having such an able champion on their salary lists as Gen. Manderson. He did the very best that could be done under the circumstances. Finally D. E. Thompson of Lincoln came to the rescue and put up \$20,000 of his own money. That amount, added to the popular subscription obtained by the newspapers will furnish a special train for the boys of the First and they will come home in the same manner that the volunteers from other states will come. It is the result of this vigorous letter of Gov. Poynter. The boys of the First will remember this kindly act of D. E. Thompson. There is not a particle of doubt but that the next legislature will refund the money with interest.

SAMPSON'S PRIZE MONEY

Characteristically Admiral Sampson shows more agility in an endeavor to capture prize money from the government than he displayed in capturing prizes for the government.

Recently the eminent rear admiral has put in a claim for prize money on account of the destruction of Cerbera's fleet off Santiago, July 3, 1898.

His petition declares that he was commander-in-chief of the American fleet blockading the Spanish squadron in Santiago bay, that Commodore Schley was commanding officer of a division of the fleet under his order, and that other officers participated in the action. He then recites the history of the destruction of the Spanish vessels and claims his share of the prize money, which is one-twentieth of the whole for the commander-in-chief.

It remains to be seen what will be done with Sampson's claim. It is alleged that before Cerbera's fleet made the dash out of Santiago bay Admiral Sampson signalled to "disregard the movements of the commander-in-chief," and that he then steamed away with the New York, his flagship, to Guantanamo for the purpose of holding a conference with General Shafter in regard to the situation at Santiago. He was over twenty miles away—out of "signaling distance," as the law says—when Cerbera ran out with his ships.

After that Admiral Schley in command of the fleet, went into action and sunk the ships of Cerbera. Now, who was in command? The man who won the battle or the man who was out of signaling distance when the victory was secured?—Chicago Dispatch.

WHY DON'T HE?

Since William McKinley was so much intimate with Providence as to bring about a famine in all the coal producing countries of the world outside the United States, two years ago, we should think he ought to be able to do the trick again this year. Wheat and corn are on the toboggan slide and it is necessary that something should be done.—The Bayonet.

THREE CONVENTIONS

The Sturdy Reformers of Nebraska Know What They Wanted, and did it with Determination.

The three reform conventions, the populists, democrats and silver republicans met at Omaha according to the announcement and straightway, without any fuss or feathers went to work and nominated Silas A. Holcomb upon the first ballot for judge of the supreme court. There was a handful of kickers in the democratic convention, a thimbleful in the populist convention and none at all among the free silver republicans. All of them were allowed to have their say to their hearts content, but the great mass of delegates in all the conventions had made up their minds before they went to Omaha.

Populists first studied out the principles that they believed should be the basis of legislation, but it has not been until lately that they have learned how to fight. They are not to be fooled any more by the tricks of the republicans—they have been fooled once too often. There are a few who have something yet to learn, but even they are getting their eyes open. To populists over the state it was very clear when the nominating committee started out, that their sole object was to prevent the reform forces from nominating Holcomb. Republicans knew that with him in the field their chances were as good as nothing and their only hope was to beat his nomination. Not a populist paper in the state was fooled by that trick and it is to be regretted that the same cannot be said of the democratic papers. Three or four of them were taken in by it. However the old workers in the democratic party who have stood by Bryan from the beginning of his fight in this state, who were never found mingling with Grover Cleveland crowd, all stood by the nomination of Holcomb from the beginning.

Some of them have grown gray in the fight of reform and they could not be fooled by any sort of a republican trick. The conventions were largely attended. They were harmonious from start to finish. The enthusiasm was as great as at any previous convention ever held in this state. The men who were there intend to go home and work from morning until night until the polls close to elect the men nominated.

The democratic convention sent an invitation asking senator Allen to address them and when Allen talked straight populism to them they nearly raised the roof with their cheers. He told them there would be no settlement of this corporation question until the government owned the railroads, the telegraphs and the street franchises. The populists sent an invitation asking Bryan to address them and when he came, he was received with such an ovation as only a populist convention can give. His talk was good enough to please the most radical pop.

After the nominations were made, the convention, while all delegates were present, went to work to plan for the campaign and elected a state committee whom they all believed would be working members. Not satisfied with that they proceeded to elect a state chairman. J. H. Edmisten was chosen and the secretary was left to be chosen by him. He chose E. W. Nelson, deputy in the land commissioner's office.

The regents for the university were taken, one from the democratic party and one from the silver republicans. Both Mr. Reh and Mr. Teeters are eminently qualified for the position.

Of course all the formalities were gone through with in the regular way. Committees on conference, committees on platform, etc. The readers of this paper all know how those things are done and it is not worth while to reproduce them. There were no objections made to any of the selections. Congressman Sutherland was both temporary and permanent chairman. Nearly everything was done by unanimous consent. There has never been a populist convention in this state that was so nearly unanimous upon every proposition that was brought up for action. The populists seem to be unanimous for once. The same is practically true of the democrats and wholly so of the silver republicans.

We are ready now for the fight. Mark Hanna may pour his money into this state in any quantity that he sees fit. They may send all the big guns that they have, but Silas A. Holcomb will be elected.

POPULISTS

The committee on resolutions reported the following platform: "The people independent party of Nebraska, in its tenth annual state convention assembled, adopts the following declaration of principles: "First—We reaffirm our devotion to the national platform of 1896 and to every plank therein contained. "Second—We declare the Monroe doc-

trine to be the doctrine of national self-preservation, and that safety is to be found alone in avoiding the quicksands of imperialism and the dangerous waters of militarism. And we oppose all foreign political alliances and all interference in European and Asiatic politics.

"Third—We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

"Fourth—We condemn the administrative policy which has converted a war for humanity into a war of conquest. We believe that the Filipinos should have received the same treatment as the Cubans, and that as the Cubans were assured of ultimate independence and protection so the beginning an assurance of our nation's intention to give them independence as soon as a stable government could be established and protection from outside interference should have been made. Such assurance should be given now.

"Fifth—We condemn the republican national administration for its complicity with unlawful combinations, which have increased nearly 100 per cent within the last three years, as a result of its failure to enact and enforce laws in the interests of the people.

"Sixth—In dealing with trusts and corporations having a monopoly of public necessities we claim that the law of the land requires that they shall serve the public for reasonable compensation, and in the absence of any legislation upon the question. The trust danger of this country is so appalling that the evils thereof must be combated by every branch of the government; we demand judges who will obey the law that vests the judiciary with jurisdiction to protect the people from unreasonable and oppressive rates.

"Seventh—We declare that the republican party has needlessly increased the rate of taxation, that it is guilty of needlessly causing the annual deficit in the current revenues of the government by needless and prodigal expenditures of the people's money, to be made good by additional taxation, or the issuance of additional interest bearing bonds, and that its attempts to retire the greenbacks and turn over the issuing power of paper money to private corporations is a shameful and inexcusable surrender to the money power.

"Eighth—We heartily endorse all efforts of organized labor to better its condition, and we believe that all classes of citizens and all legitimate enterprises should receive the protection of the law, and that all attempts to coerce honest labor by injunction or by the use of the military is a violation of the constitution and the established rights of American citizens.

"Ninth—Municipal ownership of public utilities is a public necessity.

"Tenth—The history of the three splendid military organizations furnished by Nebraska in the Spanish-American war is the just pride and glory of every citizen. And for their bravery, valor and their devotion to duty we offer them the heartfelt gratitude of the patriotic people of the state.

"Eleventh—We most heartily commend the able, patriotic and conservative administration of Governor Poynter and his official associates, and we congratulate the people of the state on his success in securing free transportation for the gallant First Nebraska to their respective homes.

WILLIAM V. ALLEN, Chairman. ELMER E. THOMAS, Secretary.

Following is the democratic platform, the reading of which was punctuated by repeated cheers:

"We the democrats of the state of Nebraska, in convention assembled, endorse and emphasize each and every plank of the national platform adopted at Chicago in 1896.

"Our confidence in the principles set forth in that platform has been increased as those principles have been vindicated by events. The gold standard is less desirable now than it was in 1896 since the president has confessed his failure by sending a commission to Europe to secure foreign aid in added proof that the people of the United States must act alone if they expect relief. The present legal ratio of 16 to 1 is the natural and necessary ratio and the opponents of that ratio have nothing to offer in its place but the evasion and ambiguous phraseology which for years furnished the gold standard advocates a mask behind which to hide while they secretly labored to make gold mono-metalism permanent. Any improvement in business conditions due to the increased production of gold or to a favorable balance of trade, instead of supporting the gold standard doctrine, shows that more money makes better times and points the way to bimetalism as the means of securing a permanent increase in the volume of standard money throughout the world.

"The republican scheme to lessen the volume of standard money by making gold the only legal tender money has at last become apparent to all and must be rescinded by the debt paying and wealth producing classes of the country. The plan to retire the greenbacks in the interest of national bank notes, denounced by the democrats in 1896, has been defended by the republicans, has boldly stalked forth from its hiding place and threatens the formation of a gigantic paper money trust.

"Arbitration grows more necessary every year and government by injunction grows more dangerous to the liberties of the people.

"The industrial trusts, springing up on every hand, testify to the administrative indifference to monopoly or to its inability to cope with it.

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News of the Week

The populists and democrats failed to fuse in the Sixth district. After a long and stormy session the populists nominated Neville and the democrats Harrington. Although Mr. Harrington finally withdrew, the democratic convention still held out, and declared they would not endorse Neville. As the populists have a majority in the district over both the democratic and republican parties the quarrel will not result in anything serious.

Mr. Bryan took occasion while in Omaha last Saturday to render an unqualified denial of the assertions of the Chicago Record that he, while in Des Moines, had agreed to give up the ratio of 16 to 1 and let silver take a minor place in the next campaign. He declares positively that he never said any such thing.

The anti-Goeble democrats held a state convention in Kentucky in which every county in the state was represented and nominated an independent democratic ticket. Many of the leading democrats of the state were present and the convention seems to have been a success in every way. The time was when the members of the democratic party would never have thought of doing such a thing but the populist party has injected some of its independent spirit into all parties. The time has passed when the voters of any party will submit to the manipulations of a few bosses who put up schemes and name candidates and adopt policies that are not in accordance with the wishes of the voters. That sort of thing is still strong in the republican party, but the withdrawal of a large number of republicans from the last national republican convention shows that in that party, the old habit of submission to the dictates of a few manipulators could not hold to the ticket even the old boss ridden republicans. The voters of the populist party were the men who first inaugurated that sort of thing, when two millions of them walked out of the old parties and formed a new one. It seems that a large number of the democratic party have caught the same spirit of independence.

The Dreyfus trial still drags along. The utmost excitement prevails everywhere in France. Riots are every day occurrences. The great dailies in this country continue to print from five to six columns of cablegrams each day concerning it. To Americans the investigation going on at Rennes is a travesty on courts. None of the forms observed in this country in trials is observed there. Witnesses are not confined in their testimony to what they know, but are allowed to make long arguments, tell what their beliefs are and report all the gossip and hearsay that they want. Some one should send to the authorities in France copy of Greenleaf on evidence or some other good authority, and the court martial should adjourn until it read it, then re-convene and begin anew.

The Jacksonian club of Omaha had a great time on last Saturday. Champ Clark of Missouri made the leading speech. Silver, 16 to 1 was the cry of the whole crowd. Mr. Bryan was present and spoke in the evening.

The president has called for ten regiments more to go to the Philippines. It is announced from Washington that they will be enlisted and ready to take part in the coming dry season campaign in the Philippines. However there has been no reports of increase in the enlistments. The last statement given out was to the effect that the ten regiments previously called had not been quite filled. How this additional 13,000 are to be secured in so short a time we are not informed.

It is announced also that Gen. Miles is to go to the Philippines. This writer has no faith in that statement at all. Of course he will go if he is ordered, but he will make no report of that sort. There has been an overhauling of the war department since Secretary Root took charge. It is not for any love of Miles, but from dire necessity that Corbin has been confined to his duties as adjutant general and Miles has been restored to the command of the army. When Alger was secretary, Corbin was the actual commander. There has been more disgraceful scheming and less official work in the war office since McKinley took charge of the government than in all its history before. Affairs got into such a disgraceful shape that something had to be done. There-

fore Miles is reinstated in command.

Senator Hoar has been rallying the anti-imperialist forces of Boston. It now appears that the following classes will not vote the republican ticket if McKinley is nominated and the present policies of the administration adhered to. First in importance come the Germans, next the Irish and then follow the negroes and then a large number of the most influential republicans. That will leave the republican party in a very small minority in the old Bay State. In New Hampshire under the lead of Senator Chandler there is just about as big a boat as there is in Massachusetts. Chandler has always been at heart a bimetalist and now he has many other reasons for dissatisfaction with the republican party. Many stranger things have happened in politics in this country than would be the turning of many of the eastern states over to Bryan.

MCKINLEY DESPOTISM

The Cincinnati Post sent a special correspondent to Idaho to investigate the establishment of military despotism under the orders of McKinley, at Wardner. The correspondent reports that:

"Martial law continues in Idaho. State government has been suspended, and the United States troops rule absolutely. The situation is the most startling that has confronted the American people for years. More houses of no crime have been burned for three months in a bullpen near Wallace, Idaho.

"The true facts regarding the strike situation in the Coeur d'Alene country have never before been printed. When military government was established a press censor was established, and has been pieced from all dispatches to newspapers all reference to the true situation.

"Little has been printed in the great dailies concerning the Warner matter, and many believed that military rule had been practically suspended. It exists in as severe a form as it did three months ago. Governor Steuneger announces that martial law in Shoshone county—the heart of the rich Coeur d'Alene country, and in which all the mines are located—will continue until his term expires on Jan. 1, 1901."

OUR ARMY

The adjutant general's office has issued a tabulated statement of the military forces of the United States giving the total enlisted strength of the regular army for Aug. 4, 1899, 82,223 men, of whom 16,642 are in the United States, 8,815 in Porto Rico, 12,204 in Cuba, and 23,300 in the Philippines. When present plans are completed there will be an army of 80,370 officers and men in the Orient. With the regular army recruited up to its authorized strength of 64,000 men, the total military forces of the United States will be as follows:

Regular army, authorized strength, 64,000.
Three regiments organizing in Philippines, 2,895.
Ten regiments organizing in the U. S., 13,000.
Hospital corps, 2,400. Total 84,855.
To which must be added over 2,500 officers, making the grand total of officers and men in the service of the United States for the next two years foot up nearly 87,000 men.

BEFORE AND AFTER TAKING.

Lumber is advancing in price because the lumber trust, assisted by the Dingley tariff have full control of the American lumber market. A house that would cost you \$2,000 today would have cost but \$1,500 before the prohibitive tariff went into effect. But you don't get any more for your farm produce.

Before the Dingley bill went into effect you could buy fence wire of our local merchants for \$2.25 per hundred, now it costs you \$4 to \$4.25. But do you get twice as much for your produce, your hogs, your cattle? All manufactured goods handled by trusts supported by a republican prohibitive tariff have made a corresponding raise in price.—Independent Era.

DANGEROUS COPPERHEADS.

A very large number of the returned soldiers from the Washington and Oregon regiments have asked for material in order that they may become disseminators of the anti-imperialist doctrine. These gallant fighters know by experience what imperialism means; they know also that it possesses neither honor nor patriotism; and they feel that they can not serve their country better than by warning it against the impending peril. They are dangerous "copperheads" and imperialists would do well to give them a wide berth.—Valley Democrat.

CAMPAIGN LIAR.

Not long ago we read the testimony of a republican editor during an investigation of a public matter, in which he declared that he generally told the truth except in political campaigns. When he was asked whether he thought that lying was honorable during a political campaign, he said he thought it was. Here is a standard of morality and of honor which a great many otherwise estimable gentlemen seem to think good enough for them.—The Bayonet.