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SILAS A. HOLCOMB, OF CUSTER COUNTY.

In fighting this great battle of reform, principles always come first and candidates afterwards. It is so much the better when the candidate is in himself an embodiment of the principles. That will be the happy condition of affairs in the coming campaign for the reform forces. Silas A. Holcomb has been a fighter in the cause of reform for many years. In the very beginning of it we made him our standard-bearer, and he has borne aloft our colors in all the hot contests of the past.

When the farmers first undertook to organize the reform forces in this state when we held our meetings in groves and on the street corners, there were not many lawyers who would have anything to do with us. In nominating our county tickets we had often to leave the place for county attorney vacant because no lawyer would disgrace himself by allowing his name to appear on our ticket. That was not the case with Silas A. Holcomb. He was with us from the first and thought it no disgrace to be numbered among us. We were glad to have him then and are gladder to have him now. Years ago he was our candidate for supreme judge, and had it not been for the antagonism of the Grover Cleveland democrats would have been elected.

Next we selected him as our candidate for governor, and he was elected when every other man on the ticket went down. He made his campaign against the organized corporate greed of the state and the united opposition of what was called "the business men." That was the first great victory that populism ever won in these United States, and Holcomb was our leader in that campaign. He took his seat at the state house when the Bartley republican crowd held every other office there. Everything that was possible to be done to embarrass him and make his administration a failure was done by the other state officers. No governor ever had a more unenviable or a harder task to perform than that which fell to him. He performed the duties of his office so well, notwithstanding all the obstacles thrown in his way that soon it became whispered about that "Holcomb was the best governor that Nebraska ever had." His devotion to the interests of the state began to make an impression upon all the fair minded men everywhere, and it was not long before the "business men" saw the mistake they had made in opposing his election and forthwith proceeded to make all the amends within their power.

The few institutions of the state that came under his control during his first term were conducted with such care and economy that their expenses were cut down nearly one-half. He did that by close and constant attention to the everyday business of his office. He made the superintendents make a monthly report of every institution and these reports he carefully scanned item by item. If any item appeared to him to show extravagance an explanation was called for and the necessity for the expenditure had to be made very plain.

Then the campaign of 1896 came on. What populism was not glad that we had such a man with such a record to head the ticket in the fiercest political battle that was ever waged on the plains of Nebraska? He was not a great orator who could entrance the waiting thousands like Bryan, he was not a politician who could control voters by organization, he was simply Silas A. Holcomb—the best governor that Nebraska ever had.

Who will ever forget that campaign of '96? Bryan came and went like a fishing meteor. Tens of thousands came and stood entranced as they listened to the burning words of the greatest orator of the nineteenth century. But when the votes were counted it was found that Nebraska's governor had polled 14,000 more votes than Bryan!

During his second term, aided by a full corps of reform state officers, Holcomb continued to give the same careful and studious attention to the interests of the state. Day after day and month after month, he was always found in his office. The humblest working man received the same courtesy and his business the same attention as the richest and most powerful. He left the office with a record that has not the slightest blot upon it. While he was in the executive chair he had seen the expenses of the state reduced one-half, the \$1,500,000 of unconstitutional indebtedness with which the republican party had burdened the state, greatly reduced, the credit of the state brought to the highest point of any state in the whole Union and the disbursements to public schools almost doubled.

For the position for which he is now a candidate he is most eminently fitted. He has the judicial cast of mind. Even in the smallest affairs of state when he was governor, this was apparent. He must examine all the evidence. Then he must take it under advisement. After all that he came to a decision. This was often irritating to those who were in a hurry. But it is the characteristic of the just and careful judge. His services upon the supreme bench will give to the court standing and dignity. There will be no more of the political and corporate decisions which have brought that court into disgrace.

But after all, the great question before the people is not the candidates. It is the principles that they represent. Every thinking man has observed with regret, the tendencies of the courts in these later years to construe the law in favor of the corporations and the wealthy. That tendency must be reversed if this republic is to endure. The judicial branch of the government has been gradually encroaching upon the legislative and executive departments. There is ten times more judge-made law today in force than was ever enacted by legislatures. And this judge-made law is all in favor of plutocracy. The great interest in this election is to bring the judicial branch of the government into harmony with modern ideas of justice. It is the only branch of the government left in control of the republicans. By the use of injunctions and supreme court decrees, all reform can be to a great extent nullified. Put another man on the bench with Judge Sullivan and the law will not hereafter be construed always in favor of the corporations. The reform forces will put a man there this fall whose sympathies are with the common people. Then Nebraska will be fully redeemed from republican rule.

WHO'LL HAUL IT DOWN?

McKinley Bribes Slave Drivers, Polygamists and Keepers of Concubines to Hoist the Flag of the Free.

The most ridiculous thing that has ever been done by a civilized government has been done by this government by the orders of McKinley. He first bought the Philippines of Spain for \$20,000,000 and when the goods were not delivered he raised an army of 50,000 to go and take forcible possession. That plan not panning out to his satisfaction he has made a treaty with a lot of Mohammedan chiefs and agrees to pay them a certain monthly salary to keep the United States flag floating. What idiotic thing he will do next no man can tell. The following is the treaty that he has made with the chiefs of many wives. It will be noticed that the right to a plurality of wives is carefully provided for by the chiefs in article 6. The religion of these chiefs is Mohammedism and the most insisted on part of that religion is the right to have a lot of wives and as many concubines as the chief can take care of. The following is a copy of the treaty made with the Sultan of Sulu and other chiefs of that part of the archipelago.

1. The sovereignty of the United States over the entire Sulu archipelago is acknowledged.
 2. The American flag is adopted as the flag of the sultan.
 3. The United States government may occupy and control such points in the archipelago as the public interest demand, except territory immediately surrounding the sultan's grounds, unless such occupation shall be a military necessity due to the exigencies of war with a foreign power.
 4. In case due compensation be made, any person shall be permitted to purchase land in the archipelago by obtaining the consent of the sultan. Such purchase may be registered at the proper American offices established for that purpose.
 5. The rights and dignities of the sultan and datus (chiefs) are to be fully respected.
 6. The Moros are not to be interfered with on account of their religion. All religious customs are to be respected and no one is to be persecuted on account of his religion.
 7. All trade in domestic products of the archipelago when carried on by the sultan or the Moro people under the flag of the United States is to be free, unlimited and undisturbed.
 8. The sultan is allowed to communicate directly with the governor general of the Philippines in making complaint against the commanding officers representing American authority at Jolo, the principal town or against any naval commander.
 9. The introduction of firearms into the archipelago is forbidden except on permission of the governor general.
 10. The sultan agrees to suppress piracy.
 11. The sultan will try all cases arising of Moros against Moros, the convicted men being delivered to the Americans for punishment.
 12. Any slave in the archipelago is given the right to purchase his freedom by paying his owner the sum of \$20.
 13. Whenever trouble arises between Americans and the sultan the former must fully investigate the matter before resorting to harsh measures.
 14. For the present any American or foreigner wishing to travel in the interior of any of the islands must obtain an escort of Moros for his protection.
 15. The United States will protect the sultan in the event of any foreign nation attempting any imposition upon him.
 16. The United States must not sell the archipelago to any foreign power without the consent of the sultan.
 17. For governing his subjects and preserving peace the sultan is to receive a monthly salary of \$250 (Mexican). The three chief datus will receive \$75 (Mexican) monthly. Three other datus will receive \$60 (Mexican) monthly. The sultan's secretary will receive a monthly salary of \$40 (Mexican). Rajah Mura will receive \$40 (Mexican) and Serif Saquin \$15 (Mexican) monthly.
- McKinley is trying the "man on horseback" act but he makes himself so utterly ridiculous that people only laugh. He started a war in direct violation of the constitution, for the constitution declares that congress shall declare war and make peace, and now he overrides another provision of that once sacred instrument. This treaty with the sultan of Sulu recognizes chattel slavery.
- The veterans of the civil war fought into the constitution and placed there as a seal to all their bloody fighting these words:
- "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist in the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction."
- Let the old Abe Lincoln republicans, the John Brown men who used to sing "His soul is marching on," and the veterans of '61 read article twelve of the above treaty and tell us what they think of McKinley now.
- The American flag once more floats over the chattel slave!
- Who will haul it down?

PERFECTLY SECURE.

President McKinley plays golf and Attorney General Griggs goes fishing while Captain Carter lives in luxury in New York, secure in belief that he will never be sentenced for his wholesale robbery.—St. Augustine Chronicle.

TO ANSWER BRYAN

The Attempt was Made by a Bash Hannan—How it Ended in Denouncing the Origin of the Republican Party

The McKinley followers have been driven into trying to reply to the attacks made upon their theories. For twenty years they have refused to discuss public questions on the rostrum, but have relied upon the bloody shirt or catch phrases and cries of anarchist and socialist. The time has come when they must attempt to meet us with arguments. The other day Mr. Bryan made a speech in Bland's old district and it became apparent that some sort of a reply must be made. So the Mark Hanna managers imported an orator from Kansas by the name of J. Ralph Burton. He is unknown to fame and parts his name in the middle, but he must have some local reputation or such a task would not have been assigned him. He began his speech as follows:

"Mr. Bryan comes fresh from the three state conventions in Nebraska, the democratic, populist and silver republican conventions to nominate state officers. He told how his party had joined with the populists to elect Senator Allen from that state, and how he had recently used the influence with the democrats and the democratic nominee for congress in the Sixth Nebraska district and induced the nominee to withdraw in behalf of the populist.

"He mentioned a few things wherein he claimed that populists and democrats agree, such as arbitration, government by injunction and income tax, and failed to notice any difference between the parties. I answer that if Mr. Bryan is right there is need for only one party to exist, unless the purpose is to masquerade under two different names to catch votes. Indeed, what else did Mr. Bryan mean when he said: 'Let us travel together whenever we can and separate only when we have to.'"

"I do not know how the people of Missouri may look at it, but as for myself I believe fusion to be the most degrading and corrupting agency that has ever entered politics in this country. Croker, who, by the way, is the only hope of the democratic party in New York, holds his place by corruption, open and notorious. Yet all the Crokers and Tweeds that Tammany has produced have not corrupted the public conscience and polluted the franchise as a thousand part as much as fusion has done.

"Fusion, while its real purpose is concealed, is unadulterated hypocrisy. I honor a democrat who believes in his honor a democrat who believes in his party, I have respect for a populist who is honest in his faith and I admire a republican who believes in republican principles. But when I find a populist, a democrat or a republican who, disregarding principles, is willing to prostitute his party for the sake of office, I despise him as I would despise any man who would trifle with the most holy right of freedom—the ballot."

This is a strange assertion for a member of the republican party to make. That party had its origin in fusion. Not less than four political parties, each of which had run candidates for the presidency, united in the election of Abraham Lincoln and fully fused on all the tickets. The truth is that every great advance which has been made toward freedom and better government has come about by fusion. His is simply the cry of the political boss—the cry that has made American politics the stretch pot of the world. In the language of the ward politician it is the old cry "vote 'er straight."

The populist party has done great things since it came upon the stage of action. When it was proposed it was thought impossible for it to amount to anything. All its successes have been in fusion. In the beginning we fused the democrats and republicans together in a way to make their demands heard. We took in republicans, democrats, prohibitionists—every sort and kind that could be made to fuse with us—and by that we became formidable.

When a republican forgets the origin of his party so completely as to denounce the very thing that made his party possible, he must have hard sledding indeed. The cry in 1856 and 1860 was the same cry of the populists of today: "Unite against the extension of slavery." The burden of the speeches in those days, and some of us can still remember them, was: "Unite! Unite! Unite!" In the fusion that resulted the republican party was born. Now here comes a degenerate son of a noble band of patriots and says that the thing that made the republican party is "unadulterated hypocrisy." If he had made a speech of that kind in a republican meeting in 1860 he would have been hooted off the platform.

"From all that could be fairly gathered from Mr. Bryan's speech yesterday," Burton continued, "he attributed our prosperity wholly to the discovery of gold in Alaska, helped a little by a famine in India. He cannot see that the corn crop of his own state will give the people of that state more money than the Klondike will furnish to the world in five years; that the eggs in this country give us more money than the Klondike."

That attempt at economic discussion is more laughable than the denunciation

of the causes that led to the formation of his own party. He does not seem to know that no matter how many million bushels of corn are raised or how many million eggs the hens may lay, and that all the rest of the productions of this great productive country does not add one dollar to the amount of money in circulation, but that every 22 8-10 grains of gold that comes in from the Klondike or from anywhere else adds dollar to the amount of money. He does not know—poor fellow—that tremendous productions of corn and eggs tends always to lower prices instead of raising them, while the addition of gold has a tendency to raise prices instead of lowering them.

Mr. J. Ralph Burton is to be commended for making an effort "to answer Bryan." This is about the first time any republican ever undertook to do it. No doubt he did the best he could.

News of the Week

The thing that the people of this state have been most interested in during the week was the return of the First Nebraska. There were constant delays from the time they left the coast and they arrived a day late. The citizens of Lincoln decorated the whole town and people came pouring in from the country districts early in the morning. The streets were crowded all day and hundreds wandered up and down, aimlessly waiting for news. Dispatches were received frequently telling of the movement of the three trains that were bringing the boys. Finally it was announced that they would be here at 7 p. m.

Long before that hour people began to assemble along the railroad tracks and around the depot. At 8:10 the big whistles began to blow and the whole city knew that the boys would arrive in half an hour. Then the people poured out of their houses and the streets in every direction were filled with men and women and children all speeding as fast as possible toward the B. & M. depot. In a few minutes many thousands were gathered there. Every steam whistle in the city was blowing its very loudest and the boys with horns added to the best of their ability. Thousands of fire crackers, many of the cannon variety were exploded along the streets. A squad of returned soldiers took the cannon from the state house grounds, placed it on the viaduct and fired away at frequent intervals. There was a roar of noise in all the western part of the city and the smoke hung thick, as over a battlefield.

Hundreds of yards beyond the depot the first section of the train encountered a multitude of people and stopped. Then a squad of railroad men with lanterns took station in front of the engine, and the train piloted by them, crawled slowly into the depot grounds. As the cars moved slowly along, men and boys, and some women climbed on, so that the tops of the cars and the platforms were covered with people. All the time there was the roar of the cannon, the shouts, shrieks and yells of the people, the bursting of the big fire crackers, the blowing of horns—altogether making such a volume of noise as was never heard on the streets of Lincoln before. That was the reception that the people gave the boys of the First Nebraska.

As soon as the train came to a halt a great many of the soldiers alighted and pressed through the crowd in search of friends. The greeting between fathers, mothers and sons, between husbands and wives and what was said is not for the printed page. Two women in black stood silently looking at the scene. They said not a word—did not even speak to each other—but now and then a hand was raised to wipe away a tear. At least one of them said: "Let us go," and walked silently away. A man standing near remarked bitterly: "I wouldn't give the boy they lost for the whole d—d Philippine outfit."

The men while they tried to cheer in return for the honors poured upon them, looked tired and weary. One of them said: "It has been this way ever since we struck the coast. Of course we are grateful for this evidence that the people appreciate the services of the regiment, but a man can't keep up this sort of thing for such a long time without getting worn out. I want now above all things, to get home and have a spell of quiet."

A large number of the boys got off before the trains reached Lincoln and went direct to their home towns, every one of which had prepared elaborate receptions for them. About 600, so it was said,

went to Omaha to the reception there where the people will be expected to go to the exposition grounds and pay 50 cents to see them. That seemed to the writer to be an over estimate, but there was no means of ascertaining the truth about the matter.

Adjutant General Barry and Colonel Stark came on the train with the boys. Senator Thurston rode in his magnificent private car in the rear of the first section.

In the fight that has been going on between Omaha and the towns from which the boys enlisted—the former trying to get the whole regiment to go to Omaha and the latter wanting the boys to get off the trains at the places at which they enlisted as they passed through the state—Governor Poynter has taken no part. The protests that have been sent to him by the towns have all been forwarded to the regiment without comment. He however insisted that each soldier should have a ticket for himself to his home town and left each to decide for himself where he would go. Upon the invitation of the authorities in Omaha, he took his staff and left Lincoln on the 4:25 train Wednesday morning to participate in the reception to be given there.

Colonel Mulford did not return with the regiment and the boys were in charge of Lieutenant Colonel Eagar. Colonel Eagar went on with those who concluded to go to Omaha as he had charge of all the baggage and his duty called him there. This edition of the Independent will have to go to press before any report can be made of the further honors that will be showered upon the boys at the metropolis.

Tuesday morning among the batch of telegrams that were headed to Governor Poynter as soon as he arose from his bed was one from Adjutant-General Barry informing him that the first section had left Denver at 3 o'clock and that Senator John M. Thurston's private car was hitched onto the rear of this train. The governor at once asked the railroad people by what authority the state's train was being trailed by a private car, and demanded that no private cars be allowed on these soldier trains, which were paid for by the people of the state of Nebraska for the use of the returning soldier, and them alone. The railroad people at this end of the line were without information as to who had given orders for this special car attachment or who had presumed to say that the soldiers train should be used for the transportation of private cars. The governor was emphatic in his demand that the car or any other not belonging to the train be detached at the first convenient siding, and the promise was made that it should be done. Notwithstanding this vigorous protest from Governor Poynter, Thurston's private car came through attached to the first section at the expense of the state.

THE POPSERVED NOTICE

Dr. Roberts the director of the mint, was asked the results of the democratic state convention in Iowa. Mr. Roberts is a republican leader of the state. He said:

"The Iowa democratic state convention has the illustrated dilemma of the party everywhere. The conservative wing of the party wished to nominate Cato Selle for governor. He was a United States district attorney in 1896, and was opposed to committing the party to 16 to 1, but after Bryan was nominated he kept his record straight by supporting the ticket. The conservatives simply asked for Sells and silence upon the ratio. He might have been nominated but the populists served notice that there could be no fusion on him, so Sells withdrew his name.

"The democratic party in the west dare not allow the populists to draw out of the union that has been maintained since 1896. They don't know what they would have left. The fact is that there is bound to be a political party representing Bryanism and the Chicago platform. There are people enough in the country holding those views to maintain a party. If they should lose control of the democratic organization, which is not probable, they would promptly appear with another organization. That is the finality which all anti-Bryan movements within the democratic party must face.—National Watchman.

ONE NEGRO REGIMENT

The field and medical officers of the 49th regiment will be white, but the company officers will all be negroes. These men will be selected from among the colored officers who served in volunteer regiments during the war with Spain and will be appointed only after a severe physical and mental examination.