

WILLIAM H. THOMPSON
Candidate for Democratic Nomination for
United States Senator

William H. Thompson of Grand Island, candidate for the democratic nomination for the United States senate, is one of the best known citizens of Nebraska, and a man whose fame as a fighter for progressive democratic principles is as wide as the republic. As a lawyer he is acknowledged to be one of the leaders of the western bar. As a public spirited citizen he is recognized and respected by his neighbors. As a democrat his counsel and his services are always in demand, and when William H. Thompson speaks men know they are listening to a man who means what he says and says what he means.

Mr. Thompson was a militant leader of democratic thoughts in Nebraska when it wasn't at all popular to be a democrat. The fact that a fight for democratic principles promised nothing but defeat did not deter him. He never failed to respond to the call of his party, and he never failed to deliver the goods. His commanding ability has won for him great success in his chosen profession. His ability as a thinker and as a student of economy has made him a recognized figure in the democratic party of the nation. Mr. Thompson is now asking for nomination and election to the United States senate. He mines no words in making known his position upon public questions. His platform is the democratic keynote.

Mr. Thompson's position in the hearts of progressive democrats is evidenced by the support he is receiving from the democratic press. The following may be taken as a fair average of the expressions of the democratic newspaper of Nebraska when they refer to the candidacy of the "Little Giant."

Grand Island Free Press: "In standing for W. H. Thompson for U. S. senator, we are not advocating an untried, unknown man, but a man who has for many years, through evil report and good report stood squarely for the best that can be had in popular government; a man who has toiled and sacrificed to keep the banner of pure democracy aloft and unsmirched and unsullied; one who has spent largely of his time and means in helping to shape reform legislation for state and nation; a man who has as freely and earnestly campaigned for others as for himself and who has done all possible at all times for the success of his party and his party's principles, without emoluments or compensation. We are not urging Mr. Thompson's claims to this nomination on the ground that the party owes it to him for services such as few could render, though if such claims were proper none would merit greater rewards than he; but that the attitude this veteran has taken on all public questions for many years past, and the loyal fight he has so unselfishly made for the party's success, together with

his unique record of absolute consistency with the proper growth and development of popular demand for the restoration of government to the people makes him the natural candidate of the people at this time. Under the insistence of the great demand for men who are absolutely true and loyal to the best interests of the common people and who always have been true to the people we feel assured that none can more fully measure up to the demand than W. H. Thompson."

Falls City News: "The News believes that the democracy of Nebraska is indebted to W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, for his years of unselfish and untiring labors in the interest of the party to such an extent that the nomination for U. S. senator should be unanimously tendered him. He has been right all these years. No act or utterance not in accord with the people can be brought forward to mar his record. As senator the democrats and the people could go to sleep with the assurance that Mr. Thompson was not spending the night carousing with the 'interests,' and that they would not have to scrutinize his acts and votes for fear they were getting the worst of it. This paper believes that he is absolutely incorruptible, and this, more than oratorical and spread eagle speeches, is what is required. Yet as an orator the 'little giant' ranks with the best of them."

Governor Holcomb says of Mr. Thompson: "He and I have known each other closely ever since we were young men. I have been one of his warmest friends and he at all times one of my staunchest supporters. He has always been true to the peoples' cause. He is well equipped for the office of United States senator. I have every confidence in him and hope he may be nominated and elected. The party owes it to him."

THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY.

That the telephone is a natural monopoly will be admitted by all. Lincoln people have had enough experience with the dual system to know what an expensive nuisance it is. They have also had ample experience with an unregulated monopoly. Not until there was competition was there anything approaching good service, or any attempt to keep pace with the growth of the city and tributary territory. Before competition began there was no attempt at regulation by the state. It was only through the efforts of independent companies that the smaller towns and the rural communities were enabled to secure telephone service.

But times have been changing rapidly of late. We have made considerable history during the past decade, and not the least interesting page of that history is the one relating to our treatment of the public service corporations. A few years ago the cor-

porations regulated the people. Now the people regulate the corporations. With this regulation, constantly being bettered and adjusted to a more equitable basis, we have been relieved in large measure of the necessity of maintaining a dual system in order to secure good service.

Much has been said of late relative to the recent telephone merger. Through this merger the Bell company and the Independent company have agreed to a division of territory, thereby doing away with the dual system and making it possible to increase the service without increasing the cost, and permitting economies in management and maintenance that will permit of a lowered rate for the same service. One central office instead of two; one set of managers instead of two; one physical plant instead of two; one force of employees instead of two—all this means a reduction in the cost that must be paid by telephone users. The fear that consolidation means decreased service and increased cost has no foundation save in the intimated belief of some that the people have not brains enough to demand and secure what is their just due. Under the present laws of the state the railway commission is empowered to compel adequate service, force needed extensions, and regulate the charges. With this fact borne in mind, there is no reason for fear that the "merger" will be disadvantageous to the general public—unless the general public allows the railway commission to become the tool of the corporations instead of the servant of the people.

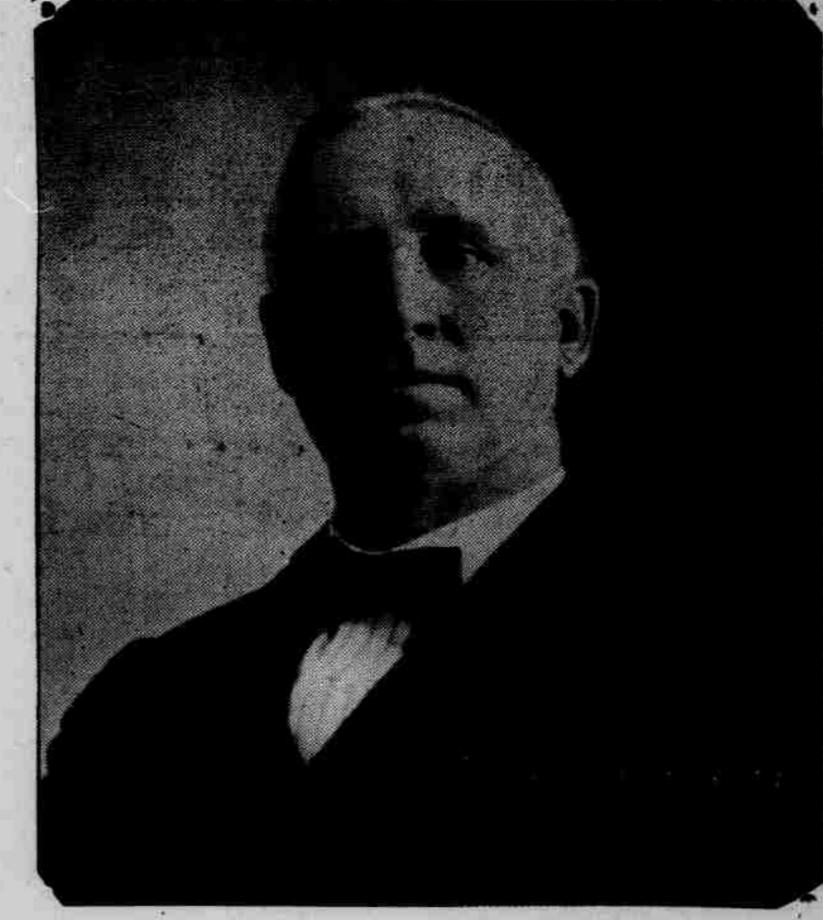
Will Maupin's Weekly believes that the merger was the wise thing, and that the results will be beneficial to all concerned. The men whose energy and enterprise made the independent company of this city one of the strongest telephone companies in America, may be depended upon to successfully manage the enlarged corporation. They will be able to enforce economies of management that will permit of decreased tolls without decreasing dividends. The public will be benefited by increased service, and the annoyance of two phones and a dual system will be removed.

To adjust affairs to the new conditions will take time. There is something more to this matter of physical connection of telephone plants than the mere matter of tying together the ends of a few wires. It is a matter that will require weeks and months of careful planning and strenuous work, for it must all be done without interfering with traffic for a single minute. To stop telephone connection in this vast territory for even twenty-four hours would be disastrous to business.

The new arrangement whereby one telephone company occupies the field, under proper regulation, means much to Lincoln. It makes this city the headquarters of a vast territory, naturally drawing to it an ever-increasing volume of business. It permits of improvements and extensions that are much needed. In short, the telephone "merger" seems to us to have been both wise and proper, and the only rational solution of a vexed problem.

The men who organized the Lincoln Independent Telephone company a few years ago went up against a hard proposition. They were getting ready to fight an arrogant corporation that had its grip on the whole country and was backed by untold millions of capital. But the organizers were not daunted. With a business energy and acumen seldom displayed, they marched on to a wonderful success, and today these same men are recognized in the telephone business as leaders.

Briefly recapitulated, the advantage of the "merger" are these: The people now compelled to maintain two phones will have to maintain but one, and their expense will be reduced 50 per cent. People now using but one phone will secure connection with every phone without increased charges. The small town exchanges will have access to every line in the South Platte country, instead of with only a part of them, and without extra cost. For many the service will be doubled and the cost reduced, and for many more the service will be doubled without increasing the cost.



JOHN H. MOREHEAD
Candidate for the Democratic Nomination
for Governor

John H. Morehead of Richardson county, acting lieutenant governor, is a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor of Nebraska. Senator Morehead is a candidate because democrats of the rank and file, caring nothing about the petty isms and ologies that have divided the party in the recent past, and caring only for the triumph of the principles of democracy, sought him and asked him to become a candidate. They wanted a man who had not been identified with any faction or clique; a man whose record as a democrat and as a loyal supporter of candidates once nominated was without a flaw, and who could be depended upon to give the state a clean, businesslike administration. Without exception these men turned to Morehead of Richardson. They saw in him a successful business man, a staunch democrat and one whose loyalty to the party was not subjugated to personal whim.

John H. Morehead is a successful business man who has won his way to the front through his own efforts. Born on an Iowa farm, he came to Nebraska at an early age, taught a country school, engaged in the mercantile business, prospered and engaged in the banking business. He was twice elected treasurer of Richardson county despite the fact that the county was overwhelmingly republican. Two years ago he was elected to the state senate, being the first democrat ever elected to represent the district. He was elected president of the senate, and succeeded to the office of lieutenant governor upon the death of the late Judge Hopewell. Mr. Morehead's position upon matters of state issue are clear and well defined. He has authorized the following as his statement, and it stands as his platform until the party in platform convention assembled make the party platform:

Favors placing men of strictest integrity and ability in charge of state institutions, a non-partisan board of control as provided in proposed constitutional amendment, of biennial elections in the state, gives cities of 5,000 population or over the right to make their own charters, limiting time for introducing bills to twenty days as per proposed constitutional amendment, the proposed constitutional amendment providing for the initiative and referendum, the strictest economy in the expenditure of public money, is in full accord with policies of the party outlined in the national platform. Has had nearly thirty years' experience in state as farmer, stock raiser, merchant and country banker and also large experience in public affairs of city, county and state. Favors liberal educational policy, broad and liberal policy on the part of the state toward its agricultural interests, supplementing

work of the agricultural schools by law, authorizing county boards to employ experts to experiment and test seeds on county farm, greater publicity for Nebraska and its resources, the management of the state's business in a businesslike manner, a non-partisan judiciary and public instruction, a law similar to that of Kansas wherein its banking board can furnish the people evidence of merits of stocks and securities offered for sale.

SOME CONCRETE NEBRASKA FACTS

With the latest available statistics, state and national, at hand it is very interesting to make some comparisons for the purpose of ascertaining just where Nebraska stands. And every time Nebraska's production is ranged up alongside the production of other states, or her output of wealth compared with the national output of some particular article of common use, we swell up with pride at the fact that our lot has been cast in this good state.

In 1910 the copper production of the United States was worth \$130,000,000. Nebraska's 1911 corn crop—short as it was compared to the average yearly yield—and her wheat crop, would pay for every ounce of copper mined in Uncle Sam's domains. So would Nebraska's 1911 crop of alfalfa, wild and tame hay. So would the animals raised on Nebraska soil and sent to the slaughter pens in the same year. And remember that copper, next to iron, is the most universally used metal.

All the coal, anthracite and bituminous, mined in the United States in 1910 was not worth as much as the wealth produced from the soil of Nebraska in 1911—not by \$60,000,000. And coal is far and away the most valuable mineral mined in this or any other country. We have no coal mines in Nebraska, but we've got something far better. Our people can work in the sunlight and in pure air, and make enough money in one year to buy all the coal mined in the United States in a twelve month.

The sugar of the world was worth \$900,000,000 in 1910. Two-thirds of it could have been paid for by the wealth produced on the farms and gardens of Nebraska in 1911. We've been building up a sugar industry in this country through tariff laws for many years. Nebraska's wheat crop in 1911 was worth more than this public's output of sugar in that same year.