

# A SPLENDID RECORD

## REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS EFFECTS BIG SAVING

### Appropriations Not All Used—A Comparison of Republican Methods with Fusion Methods—Sketches of the Republican Nominees.

Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 27, 1902.

The time is near at hand when the voters of Nebraska will have an opportunity to say which party shall be entrusted with the management of their public interests for the next two years.

In making a decision partisan bias should be cast aside and merit alone should count. The right of each party to the confidence and support of the voters should rest on how well the interests of the state have been conserved. The republican party submits this question to the voters for determination, conscious of the fact that an unbiased expression at the ballot box will elect the entire republican ticket by a splendid majority.

Naturally the voters are concerned in the relative facts pertaining to the public record of both parties. Here they are:

The fusionists expended the large amount appropriated by the legislature and at the close of their two-years' term had unpaid bills outstanding amounting to the enormous sum of \$149,000. In addition to this, \$23,000 had to be raised by emergency appropriations to provide funds to carry on the business of the state until the regular appropriation could be used. The total deficiency created by the fusionists was therefore \$172,000, by far the largest in the history of the state.

The fusionists had an army of 227 relatives and friends, who were neither inmates of the institutions nor employes of the state, stopping at the various state institutions at the state's expense.

The fusionists, through their insatiable greed for spoils, kept the state institutions in constant turmoil, resulting in demoralization, incompetency and a reckless waste of the public funds.

The fusionists foraged upon the interests of the state, committed wholesale thievery and fraud in disbursing the public funds and by their lack of business methods, coupled with a painful paucity of honesty and economy, increased the interest-bearing indebtedness of the state more than \$200,000.

The fusionists filched interest money from the state treasury to such an extent that ex-Treasurer Meserve immediately upon his retirement from office made a spot cash offer for the largest banking house in Adams county.

When Meserve was first elected he was struggling under a large mortgage, but he possessed such wonderful business sagacity (?) that in four years, on a salary of \$2,500 per year, he accumulated enough to pay off a mortgage that amounted to more than his entire salary and buy one of the leading banks in western Nebraska in addition. Had the fusionists evidenced such shrewdness in taking care of the state's finances as they did in taking care of their own, thousands of dollars would have been saved to the taxpayers.

The fusionists solemnly promised to eschew the acceptance of corporation favors, but not only were the railroads bled for thousands of dollars worth of passes for other than official purposes, but these self-constituted "reformers," with a taste for regal luxury established the precedent of riding about on special trains. They promised not to accept a pass and it was perhaps in fulfillment of that promise that some of them took a whole train, thereby making their promise "good" with compound interest.

**THE REPUBLICAN RECORD.**  
Here are the facts on the republican side:

The republicans have made a saving to the taxpayers during the last year and ten months of \$189,000 and at this rate of saving the total saving for the two years will be more than \$200,000.

The republicans compelled all the interlopers at the state institutions to vacate and only the minor children of the superintendents are permitted to stay free at the institutions.

The republicans will close the biennium with a surplus of more than \$200,000 in the funds appropriated by the legislature. The difference in favor of the republicans as compared with the fusionists, who owed \$149,000 at the end of their term, is therefore \$349,000.

The republicans have managed the institutions better, cheaper and more harmoniously than the fusionists, while throughout the whole official machinery of the state not a charge has been made of dishonesty or extravagance anywhere.

The republicans in making appointments selected applicants on their merits with the result that the institutions are now in charge of officials who acquired their positions because of their honesty, fidelity to principle and fitness. Positions requiring professional skill, like the superintendency of the Hospital for the Insane, the Asylum for the Insane, the School for the Deaf, the Institute for Feeble-Minded Youth, the Institute for the Blind, were given to men of high and recognized standing in their respective professions, while positions requiring mainly executive ability like the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, the Nebraska Industrial Home, the Industrial School for Boys, the Penitentiary, the School for Juvenile Offenders, and the institutions, were given to only those of recognized ability and known honesty. The large saving in the expense of maintaining these institutions and the splendid success in curing and caring for the inmates, as well as the existence of harmony and economy everywhere, is the fruition of circumspect action in making appointments and is a happy contingent alone on concerted honesty and fidelity.

The voters must pass upon these two records. Whether the republican, who has so successfully managed the af-

close his term with a handsome surplus in the funds.

It is conceded by school men and educators of all parties that W. K. Fowler, superintendent of public instruction, is the most thorough and practical state superintendent Nebraska ever had. Mr. Fowler is devoted to educational work. His whole life is wrapped up in the schools. Not a minute of his time has been devoted to any other than educational work since he assumed the state superintendency. He has familiarized himself with the schools throughout the state and has acquired a knowledge of their needs and conditions which qualifies him for successful and efficient service.

George W. Marsh has set a high example as secretary of state. Unlike ex-Secretary Porter, Mr. Marsh has never undertaken to justify the appropriation of public fees to his own use. Mr. Marsh has turned over to the state every penny in fees collected, and as a member of several important boards, which are constituted as heads of the executive department, he has been a stickler for honesty and economy. Nebraska has never had a more faithful and deserving official than George W. Marsh.

It might be of some interest to show the official figures along the line of the fees from the office, turned into the state treasury. The same fee law has been in operation under both administrations, but the figures tell an important story.

Secretary Porter turned in fees as follows:

January 1, 1897, to Sept. 1, 1898, \$21,482.47.

January 1, 1899, to Sept. 1, 1900, \$19,214.20.

Secretary Marsh turned in fees as follows:

January 1st, 1901, to September 1, 1902, \$47,563.36.

Thus it will be seen that in the same period of time Mr. Marsh turned over to the state more than twice as much money in fees as did Porter and in the eight months turned in nearly \$7,000 more in fees than Porter did in two periods of eight months each or in sixteen months.

During the four years that the fusionists controlled Nebraska the fees from the office of secretary of state turned into the state treasury only amounted to about \$7,000 above the expenses of the department, while in the twenty months under the present republican administration over \$30,000 has been turned in to the state above the expenses, or at the rate of \$1,500 per month. When the record is completed it will be seen that Secretary Marsh has turned over to the treasury more than five times as much fee money in two years as Secretary Porter did in four years. Of course Mr. Marsh has not stolen the fees from the marks and brands commission.

**GEORGE D. FOLLMER,**  
Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings.

George D. Follmer, the present incumbent of the office of commissioner of public lands and buildings, is one of the pioneers who form the bone and sinew of the great commonwealth of Nebraska. More than thirty-one years ago he took up his residence in Nuckolls county. Like all pioneers, his chief resources were indomitable energy, unlimited confidence in the future development of the state, a keen sense of justice and acute business facilities.

A plain, unassuming man of the people, he grasped his opportunities as they came to him, until his good judgment and business fairness earned for him a position as a leader in the affairs of his county. This position he has maintained throughout his long residence there, serving the county four terms as treasurer.

Mr. Follmer's business experience has been varied and uniformly successful. His attention has been divided between farming and the real estate business, this experienced coupled with his long acquaintance with lands and their values tends to make him peculiarly fitted for the position of commissioner of public lands and buildings, and by combining business principles with affairs of state in such a manner that every dollar accruing to the school fund, or appropriated for special purposes under his jurisdiction should be turned to the best advantage of the state, he has at all times endeavored to merit the confidence the people placed in him two years ago by electing him commissioner.

During his incumbency he has not only given his entire time and best thought to the duties devolving upon him as commissioner, but has turned his knowledge of land values into dollars and cents for the school fund. He has looked carefully into details, yet has been just and generous to the individual when such action would not conflict with justice to the state and within the law. In the line of duty he is fearless and unswerving. He has collected thousands of dollars of back interest on school lands, some of which had been due the state more than ten years, and he has never forfeited a single contract where the owner showed any desire to retain the same by making payment sufficient to insure good faith.

Business methods have been applied by him to the work in the office and of the state boards with which he is connected, to such an extent that the business of the state is conducted as systematically, accurately and promptly as is his own private business. When he accepted the position of custodian of the public buildings, he accepted likewise the responsibility of keeping them in repair and in a condition worthy of the dignity of so great a commonwealth. Fusion economy had stopped short of necessary repairs to such an extent that both buildings and grounds were in a sad state of dilapidation. To bring them back to a satisfactory condition was no small undertaking and required the expenditure of no small sum of money. Facing an unpromising situation, he took an inventory of the needs of the institutions and went to work to remedy the existing evils with the consequence that never before in the history of the state have the public buildings been brought up to so thorough a state of repair and been managed with so great economy to the state.

Hon. Frank N. Prout, attorney general of Nebraska, and the republican candidate for that office at the coming election, is a native of New Jersey. He was born at Newark May 31, 1852, and moved with his parents to Toulon, Ill., in 1855. His early education was gained in the common schools of that city, and he began the study of law in the office of Hon. W. W. Wright, county judge of Stark county. In January, 1875, he was admitted to the bar of the state of Illinois by the supreme court of that state, and entered at once upon the practice of his profession in Stark county. In the year 1881, Mr. Prout removed to Gage county, Nebraska, locating at Blue Springs, where he became a member of the well known law firm of Burke & Prout. He continued in practice at that point until 1889, when he took up his residence in Beatrice. He was married in May, 1880, at Bromfield, Ill. During the years of his residence in Beatrice Mr. Prout has sought only the honors to be gained in the practice of his profession, to which he has applied himself with zeal and the determination to succeed. Aside from the office of city attorney, in which he rendered most valuable services to the city, he held no public office until in 1898 he was nominated and elected to represent Gage county in the state senate. Owing to his high legal attainments and fine equipment as a legislator, Mr. Prout took high rank in that body, and by his vigorous course and sensible attitude on public questions attracted general attention, as a man well qualified to fill high public station.

An logical sequence to his splendid record in the state senate, Mr. Prout was nominated by the republican state convention in 1900 as its candidate for attorney general, and in the fall of that year was triumphantly elected over his fusion adversary.

Attorney General Prout is a forcible and convincing public speaker, and his logic and eloquence have made him a favorite with republican audiences throughout the state. While not an office-seeker, he has for many years assisted in upholding republican principles on the stump and is an ardent campaigner.

Attorney General Prout is a modest and unassuming, and has not followed the practice of his fusion predecessor in tooting his own horn, but will leave a record for competency and efficiency that has never been equalled by any of his predecessors.

His duties as attorney general have required him to deliver more than two hundred legal opinions. In discharging these duties he has advised the heads of the executive departments of the state, committees of the different houses of legislature, and nearly all of the county attorneys of the state.

The epidemic of smallpox necessitated additional legislation giving greater powers to boards of health. This power was granted by the last legislature, and Mr. Prout was called upon to interpret the statutes and to define the duties and powers of boards of health. His opinions on this subject alone would make a text-book on public health and safety. He has also construed the reform-school law, the new game law and many other statutes. His legal opinions will soon be published by the state, and will make a large volume of invaluable instruction on the duties and powers of executive officers.

All work relating to his office has been reduced to a perfect system. It is a reproach to the state that Attorney General Prout had to label, endorse, number and rearrange all the files before he was able to find any particular paper.

The suits in which the state is a party have been managed with equal ability and care. During his incumbency he has tried on an average three lawsuits a month in the supreme court, and has had pitted against him the best legal talent in the state. Out of sixty cases decided by the supreme court he has won forty-five. Some of the most important cases submitted to the supreme court on behalf of the state are still undetermined. In addition to all this work, he is a member of eight different state boards which have required and received from him a great amount of time and labor.

Mr. Prout's modesty has prevented the publication of much interesting matter concerning his efforts in behalf of the public, but the facts just mentioned are public records of which Mr. Prout has reason to be proud. Unjust criticism of his official conduct is due wholly to the depravity and ignorance of the fusion press.

**ANOTHER GENIUS.**  
Nebraska has been somewhat famous in its production of men of more than an ordinary turn of mind, but the last one to spring to the surface seems to have the capacity to outstrip them all. He appears before the public through his magazine called "The Knocker, a Journal for Cranks." The magazine is all that the name implies and during the past few months has taken front place in the literary reviews of many of the largest publications, getting first mention from the Chicago Chronicle and New York Herald. It has sprung up like a mushroom, but seems to have the stability of an oak. It is published at Blair, Neb., by the Exchange Printing company. Its editor is the versatile Will A. Campbell, a Nebraska product, and a young man of mature judgment, who seems to have the correct idea of life and has the swing of language to properly express it.

**Warm Congressional Campaign.**  
The redistricting of Mississippi had a curious result. Three Democratic congressmen—Patrick Henry of Vicksburg, John Sharp Williams of Yazoo, and Charles Edward Hooker of Jackson—suddenly found themselves in the same district. All three wanted to go back to the house; only one could. Williams has won out in the primary and remains in congress. Williams' canvass is spoken of as one of the greatest ever seen in Mississippi. The last day of it found him in his shirt sleeves in a reputedly hostile ward of Jackson speaking alternately in English, German and French. His own county went for him solidly and he made surprising inroads in the counties of his competitors.

**Wedding Gifts in Coffin Box.**  
A young married woman in one of the neighboring towns must be given credit for originality in securing means for transporting her wedding gifts. Her new home is in a distant city, and she recently returned to her old home to pack her presents. The problem presented itself of finding something of sufficient size to hold them. A boxmaker was consulted, and it was found that it would cost about \$5 to make a box to order such as she desired. Finally it was suggested that a common coffin box might answer the purpose. The young woman jumped at the suggestion and invested \$2.50 in a long, plain pine box. The neighbors of the young woman's mother were startled to see the undertaker drive up and take the big, long box into the house. A number of hurried calls were made before the mystery was solved. The bride says she will make good use of the coffin box after she returns to her home by utilizing it as a couch.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

**Strange New Herbs.**  
The gardens and fields of Yucatan are filled with succulent vegetables and odorous herbs unknown to the outer world. In the cultivated fields at the proper seasons are grown classes of Indian corn, beans, squashes and tubers for which we have no name, for the reason that we have never seen or heard of them, reports the Pittsburg Dispatch. The forests and jungles contain fruits that, excellent even in their wild state, could be made delicious by scientific care and cultivation. There are half a score of wild fruits that offer more promising results than did the bitter wild almond, the progenitor of the peach.

# GREAT AMERICAN PIE

## PUMPKIN IS ONCE MORE THE MONARCH OF ALL.

Immense Consumption of the Luscious Dainty Throughout the Land—Figures Show the Extent of its Wondrous Popularity.

The pumpkin pie is once more abroad in the land. On the counters of the confectioners, in the windows of the dairy lunches and on the embossed menus of the hotels where wealth and fashion flock, it again takes its honored place, to gladden with its presence the heart of old and young.

New York—pre-eminent in most things—is the greatest pumpkin pie eating city in the world. During the season, from September to February, there are, on an average, more than 15,000 pumpkin pies a day eaten in that city. Estimating each pie to contain five pieces, an army of something like 75,000 pumpkin eaters musters daily.

To make 15,000 pies a day requires 25,000 pounds of pumpkin and 10,000 quarts of milk. Such dry, prosaic and exact things as figures are hardly in keeping with the poetic pumpkin; but it is interesting to figure out the fact that in the four months or so during which the pumpkin pie flourishes there are about 3,000,000 pounds of the fruit used to make the pies which are eaten in that city, and a million and a quarter quarts of milk. With a pencil and an imagination interesting figures of the consumption of the United States at large might be worked out.

In the days when people who are now middle-aged were boys—for it is to the male sex primarily that the pumpkin pie has always appealed—pumpkins were raised as a "stolen crop," a few seeds placed at intervals in a field of Indian corn or potatoes often giving, besides the regular crop, a ton of pumpkins.

But now the pumpkin, though still to some extent raised in the old way, has attained the dignity of being considered worthy to be raised for itself alone. Pumpkin farms are numerous all through the central and New England states, and yield good returns to their proprietors.

The largest pumpkin farm near New York is in Monmouth county, N. J., where a tract of 300 acres is given over principally to the raising of pumpkins. The cultivation of the fruit, too, is no longer a haphazard affair, but is conducted on scientific principles, the soil being thoroughly fertilized with the special view of providing the kind of richness needed in the pumpkin.

# LUCK RESTORES A DIAMOND.

Found by Its Owner in Street Where She Lost It Five Years Ago.

The luckiest woman in the west is Mrs. Anna M. Scott of Denver, Col. Five years ago, in returning from a party, she lost a diamond earring worth \$200. In looking for something else a few days ago she found the diamond in the street where she had dropped it so long before.

Hundreds of persons had passed over the spot in the meantime. Rain and snow had buried the jewel in the sand, and at just the right time the rain again washed the diamond clean for Mrs. Scott to find it. Other persons had looked in vain, when it was lost years ago.

"I was not looking for it," said the owner, "I was looking for a little ring that my daughter thought she had lost. As I could not find the ring, I went over the ground rather carefully."

"Suddenly something sparkling caught my eye and then I cried right out loud, 'Why, there's my diamond!'" "I was so surprised to see it that I could really hardly believe that I was awake, or that it was 1902 instead of 1897."