

# THE OMAHA MORNING BEE

CITY

## DEAD TOLL OF EARTHQUAKE

### Spoils Rule of Bryans Hit by Norris

#### Senator Assails Governor for Paying Political Debts at Expense of Taxpayers.

#### May Take to Stump

By P. C. POWELL.  
Washington Correspondent, Omaha Bee.  
Washington, Dec. 20.—Whether Senator George V. Norris is a candidate for re-election or not, it is almost certain that if an attempt is made to foist Governor Charles W. Bryan on the Nebraska electorate a second time, either as governor or something else, the Nebraska senator will take the stump against him.

For the senator looks upon Governor Bryan and William Jennings Bryan as exemplifications of followers of the spoils system, which the senator detests. Whenever the senator speaks of the spoils system he refers to the discharge of a thimble fish hatchery head by Governor Bryan and the appointment of a democrat to succeed him.

Continuing, the senator cited instances in his knowledge where the same tactics were pursued by William Jennings Bryan.

"Bryan is a positive character and has blazed the trail many times, but he isn't any better than his brother when it comes to the spoils system," Senator Norris said.

"I know of an incident in Illinois where an old woman 83 years old was given a postoffice at the direction of William Jennings Bryan because when he was a youth she had coddled him on her knee. There was a young man and an efficient man who was an applicant for the position.

#### Robbing Taxpayers.

"Now it was a wonderful sentiment that induced Bryan to give this woman this position, even though she couldn't work or give the services of the community. But it isn't right to put one's hand in someone else's pocket to pay a sentimental debt. It is the public, not Bryan, who paid that debt."

"How are we to have efficiency in government as long as such instances as these abound in our public life? Another incident of the sentimental debts of the Bryans being paid at public expense, which may form a part of the senator's drive against continuation of the spoils system in Nebraska, is the act of Governor Bryan in placing the entire staff of the Commoneer office on the state payroll after the Commoneer was sold."

### The Day in Washington

Congress recessed over the holidays.

Department of Agriculture announced that cotton ginned to December 13 totaled 9,548,805 bales.

A bill to create a \$50,000,000 fund to be loaned to farmers of the northwest was introduced by Representative Burnett, republican, North Dakota.

Investigation of Governor General Wood's Philippine administration was demanded by Representative Frear, republican, Wisconsin.

Representative Cramton, republican, Michigan, introduced a bill to create a separate prohibition bureau under supervision of the treasury.

The shipping board submitted to the senate a list of attorneys employed and their compensation, in response to a resolution requesting the information.

Senator Simmons, North Carolina, ranking democrat on the senate finance committee, declared the democrats favored a soldiers' bonus.

### Edgar Howard Denounces Democratic Reactionaries in His Maiden Speech

#### Nebraska Congressman Wins Applause With Attack on Representative Rainey for Criticism of Republican Insurgents.

Washington, Dec. 20.—With his eyes cast heavenward, his hands folded in saltlike style over his breast, his voice keyed to soft music and his hair flying in Washington zephyrs, Congressman Edgar Howard of Columbus delivered his maiden speech in the halls of congress today. His remarks, which tinged with the words love, kiss, and other sentimental expressions, won rounds and rounds of applause.

"Go on, go on, I'll give you my time," congressmen shouted when Edgar was informed at various times in speech-making under the five-minute rule.

Finally one congressman arose and demanded the floor saying he had a government weather report to put in the record.

"The gentleman must tell me whether the report is wet or dry before I yield," the Columbus man said. "It promises wind and rain," the congressman replied.

"Well, I'll yield," Edgar replied.

### Too Many Political Loafers in State, Mathers Declares

#### Spoils System of Bryan Administration Assailed by Republican Candidate From Gering.

Gering, Neb., Dec. 20.—A. L. Mathers, republican candidate for governor, today issued a statement setting out his position clearly and without equivocation.

"I have been approached relative to my position of the spoils system, asking me to modify my stand in this particular, with assurance that if I do so I would have less opposition in the primaries," he said.

"I made but one answer and herein restate the same to the women and men voters of Nebraska. There is no no satisfactory tax reduction, economy and efficiency in state government, until the spoils system is eliminated and the administrative affairs of the state is taken from the hands of professional politicians and political henchmen, and placed in the hands of hard-working and capable average citizens."

"Shall Nebraska have a business administration or continue a political monstrosity?"

"Not all present and past appointees are political loafers and politicians. Some of the best men in the state are being kept out of the public service by the spoils system. It is a disgraceful thing that thousands of the taxpayers' dollars are thus consumed—wasted by the spoils system."

"Above all else, I pledge to the people of Nebraska, if I am elected governor, to eliminate the spoils system and purge the administration of state affairs of professional politicians, clearing the executive department of machine building politics, which has and continues to drain the taxpayers' pockets."

"Win or lose, shall mix no political medicine with any professional political party, that would put up and over their candidate, only to ruin his official service by dictating his appointments and administration."

"Because of this positive stand, I have acquired some disfavor. Professional politicians have frankly told me that while I may have some common sense, I certainly have no political sense. Possibly, that is true. However, I maintain that only after the spoils system and professional politicians are eliminated from state government can there be efficiency, economy and satisfactory state administration."

### Man Drops From Speeding Train, Is Severely Hurt

Grand Island, Neb., Dec. 20.—A special dispatch from Ellsworth states that Sam Evans of Corbin, Ky., either jumped or fell off Burlington train No. 42, and lies seriously injured at Mullen.

The train was under full speed, but Evans was missed soon and the train stopped, reversed and found Evans. It could not be ascertained from him of the act was accidental or intentional. Evans boarded the train at Alliance.

### Married in Council Bluffs

The following persons obtained marriage licenses in Council Bluffs yesterday:

Anna Ties, Arnold, Neb. 20  
Genevieve Gorman, Mead, Neb. 20  
J. E. Greer, Council Bluffs 20  
Rose Boney, Council Bluffs 20  
Ollie Kreezy, Holden, Mo. 20  
Eva Clark, Sioux Falls, S. D. 20  
Festola Leibarovic, Walnut, Ia. 20  
Lea Gittlieb, Cincinnati, O. 20  
Arthur Peterson, Omaha, Neb. 20  
Helen Gray, Omaha, Neb. 20  
Alfred Christensen, Lindsay, Neb. 20  
Cary Thomas, Alliance, Neb. 20  
Charles Scott, Manning, Ia. 20  
Margaret Galwitz, Manning, Ia. 20  
Alfred Gaster, Omaha, Neb. 20  
Margaret Bekard, Council Bluffs 20  
Usher Nordstrom, Arcadia, Neb. 20  
James Wisard, Omaha, Neb. 20  
Stella Clemons, Omaha, Neb. 20  
Victor Peterson, Omaha, Neb. 20  
Mildred Byrne, Omaha, Neb. 20  
Everett Jones, Hancock, Ia. 20  
Festola Leibarovic, Walnut, Ia. 20  
Edward Beards, Aurora, Neb. 20  
Florence Russell, Marquette, Neb. 20

### Souder Has Day in Court; Takes Stand

#### Former Lincoln County Official in Effort to Undermine State's Charges.

#### Denies He Set Fire

By Associated Press.  
North Platte, Neb., Dec. 20.—S. M. Souder had his day in court Thursday, testifying in his own behalf, in an effort to undermine the state's contention that he burned the old Lincoln county courthouse last April 29-30 in an effort to cover up a shortage of funds in county treasurer's office.

Mr. Souder detailed his activities from the time he took a teachers' course at Hastings college until the Sunday night of the fire. He also went into the affairs of the county treasurer's office, asserting he had paid from his personal account various sums for claims against the County Fair association, which was "always behind" in its financial affairs.

Various checks in this connection, including one in favor of W. W. Hunter of near North Platte, for a county fair premium, were introduced as evidence by the defense, without any objection being voiced by counsel for the prosecution, after the defendant had stated he had been "unfortunate" enough to have been treasurer of the County Fair association.

"I did not!" was Souder's emphatic reply, given three successive times, in response to questions of Victor Halligan, one of his counsel, who had asked if he set the courthouse on fire, if he had had knowledge it was to be burned or if he knew the books of his office were being carried to the top part of the building.

#### Denies Making Remark.

It is the state's theory that Souder, whose office was located on the first floor, carried county records upstairs to burn and in this regard introduced testimony that he remarked after the fire that no one man carried the books upstairs. Souder, however, testified what he really said was "If they had been carried upstairs 'no one man did it.'"

Declaring in effect he appreciated it looked "peculiar" that a batch of checks given by various persons for tax payments were deposited in his personal account, Mr. Souder explained he sometimes on Saturday night would give his own checks in payment for claims against Lincoln county.

Mr. Souder also declared that during the period of financial depression, his office received checks for which there were no funds and he put in his personal checks to cover the amounts and took chances of getting the money back. Sometimes he had the person given a bad check do work for the county and obtain reimbursement at that manner.

After asserting under Defense Attorney Halligan's direct examination that the county bridge, road dragging and other work was done for the county for some time, the latter being overdrawn on an average of between \$40,000 and \$50,000 for two years previous, Mr. Souder gave his explanation of what the state refers to as "stylish" receipts.

#### Used Difference, Is Charge.

The state's contention is Souder was able to make duplicate tax receipts for small amounts for which a stationer could charge him. He was accused of using the difference to cover up funds already taken. Souder told the jury the money was to take care of warrants against county funds that were overdrawn. An original receipt of former Governor Keith Newton for a considerable sum and a paper purporting to be the duplicate for a smaller amount were mentioned in this connection. The warrants were carried as cash and not charged at the time to the accounts, against which they were drawn.

Souder's stand for the first 10-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

#### Among other charges preferred against Wood are:

- "Usurpation of law."
- "Overruling the legal reports of officials."
- "Assuming the role of dictator, both of legislation to be enacted and to be repealed, and of rights and privileges to be granted favored individuals and private interests."
- "Aided in bringing about conditions that threatened the failure of the Philippine national bank."
- "Endeavored to turn over the management of the Manila railroad company to the J. G. White Management corporation, New York, under conditions detrimental to the interests of the Philippine government and against the protest of the Philippine people."
- "Attempted to force the sale of the Philippine sugar controls against the protest of the Philippine people."
- "Having maintained an autocratic direction of the Philippine government through officers of the American Army."

### Kiwanis Club Gives \$50 to Omaha Bee Shoe Fund

Directors of the Kiwanis club at their meeting this week voted to give \$50 to the Free Shoe fund of the Omaha Bee. At the noon luncheon today at Hotel Rome the election of officers will be the feature event. Plans also were made to help in giving a Christmas party for children at the detention home.

#### Denies Accusation.

Souder denied he handed to Miss M. L. Hall, bookkeeper for a bank at Titusville, Fla., a package purporting to contain coupons of the Birdwood Irrigation district bonds after the fire. He also denied having a "Henry Keller" receipt from the bank for the coupons when searched in Florida. Souder declared he never saw such a receipt. The state's contention is he attempted to sell the coupons under the name of Henry Keller.

### Waterloo Man Enters Democratic Senate Race

Lincoln, Dec. 20.—Trennor Cone of Waterloo, who announced recently that he was a candidate for the senate on the democratic ticket, today paid the \$50 filing fee and his name was entered on the records.

### Why Grandpa Was Late to Dinner



### Grocer and Wife Are Found Dead in Store at Lincoln

On a phonograph was a dance record. An alarm clock had dropped to the floor and was still ticking.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitney are said to have owned real estate in Lincoln and to have had bank accounts here. They formerly lived at Belleville, Kan., having moved here about two months ago, when they purchased the store.

### McMullen Probable Candidate for Governor

Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 20.—Adam McMullen, Beatrice, who has long been a leader in the republican organization in this state, is a probable candidate for the nomination for governor, according to an announcement appearing in the Daily Sun here tomorrow.

### Pioneer Nebraska Woman Dies Here

Lincoln, Dec. 20.—Shot to death and laying side by side on the floor of their living quarters in the rear of the little grocery store, the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Whitney were discovered by police early today. Police say indications pointed to either a suicide pact or that one had shot the other and then committed suicide.

### U. P. Early Resident of Brownville, Succumbs.

Mrs. Prudence E. Rich, 93, died at the home of her son, Edson Rich, 1018 South Fifty-second street, Thursday morning. She was the widow of Wellington Rich, who died 19 years ago.

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### 23,000 Are Homeless in Havoc Area

#### Four Towns on Ecuador-Colombian Border Laid Waste by Temblar—Huge Cracks Swallow Lake.

#### Death List May Increase

By Universal Service.  
Bogota, Colombia, Dec. 20.—With four towns completely wiped out of existence, with 3,000 persons dead and more than 23,000 reported as having lost their homes, late reports reaching here indicate the extent of devastation in the wake of the earthquake on the Ecuador-Colombian frontier.

Near Tulcan great fissures opened in the surface of the earth, and one large lake, Lake Grandes, emptied its waters into the openings, entirely disappearing.

### Norris Denies Hughes' Charge of Soviet Plot

#### Nebraskan and Senator Borah Say Proof of Communist Aims Against United States Lacking.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The State department's charge of revolutionary soviet propaganda in the United States started diplomatic circles here today, launched the new senate upon its first debate over foreign affairs and resulted in a promise of further disclosures that will bring the whole problem of Russia once more into review before the American public.

Senators who repeatedly have urged formal recognition of the soviet regime in Russia started the senate debate by assailing Secretary Hughes' disclosure of soviet "instructions" for a movement designed to raise the red flag over the White House.

Both Senator Borah, republican, Idaho, and Senator Norris, republican, Nebraska, openly charged that there was no proof of such activities and although no general reply came from administration quarters, Senator Lodge, Massachusetts, republican floor leader, announced that a sweeping inquiry into the entire Russian foreign relations committee.

#### Has Goods on Moscow.

It was disclosed that the State department had additional ammunition in reserve for the expected battle over recognition. In co-operation with the Department of Justice, Secretary Hughes has been collecting evidence that he believes will establish beyond doubt the direct responsibility of Moscow for a well-defined movement to undermine the government of the United States.

Whether the house will take up the question through an inquiry by its foreign affairs committee was not indicated, although a resolution was referred to the committee upon its introduction today by Representative Britten, republican, Illinois, calling upon the secretary of state and attorney general for data and information in their possession on soviet activities and propaganda in this country.

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