

Some Ancient History

"Lest we forget," The Independent secured the services of an archaologist to rummage over the files of the State Journal in search of something appropriate to reproduce on the day of Governor Mickey's inauguration. The following, published October 25, 1902, is typical:

"Beatrice, Neb., Oct. 24.—(Special.)—The first and only rally which the republicans will hold in Beatrice this campaign was held tonight at the Pad-dock opera house and the enthusiasm manifested was a surprise to everyone because of the apparent apathetic feeling among the voters up to this time. The opera house was packed, with many people standing when Former Senator Graham called the meeting to order. On the platform were over fifty party workers.

Hon. J. H. Mickey was the first speaker. He was welcomed with a burst of applause. He spoke for a half hour and confined his remarks chiefly to state issues. He compared the notorious mismanagement of the state's finances with the record of the past two years under the republican rule. He told how the republicans with the legacy of debt bequeathed them by the fusionists, not only paid off the debt, but now came before the people with a surplus in every state institution. His clear and forceful manner in presenting the claims of the party upon the people was a revelation to those who had never heard him speak, and his business-like manner made him many new friends."

This is interesting reading after one has read Auditor Weston's biennial report.

Had Governor Mickey been as familiar with the reports of former auditors as he was with the "Baldwin hug" the correct method of lining up teetotalers and whisky soaks for the g. o. p., he might have known that the fusionists received a bequest of over \$1,936,000 of floating debt from the Bartley-Moore administration, and that the "legacy" was only \$1,727,000 (in round numbers) when it was turned over to the Dietrich "redeemers." And he could find out now that the "legacy" is now about \$1,989,000.

"He told how the republicans . . . not only paid off the debt, but now come before the people with a surplus in every state institution." Sublime mendacity! On that 24th day of October the penitentiary had been running seven months and thirteen days on a 52-cent balance in its "maintenance" fund, which had been \$35,000 for two years' expenses—on that 52 cents, on hot air or jaw-bone, with what the convicts could earn. And Mr. Mickey must have known that.

He can mark this down: That the fusionists averaged for four years to cut down the floating debt \$52,000 a year, with an average tax levy about \$29,000 smaller than the "redeemers" had. But the "redeemers," with a tax levy about \$29,000 greater each year succeeded in two years in increasing the floating debt nearly \$131,000 a year. It is evident that it costs about \$252,000 a year additional for the blessings of redemption!

Every dollar of fusion reduction has been swept away by the redeemer and the state has now a greater floating debt than ever before.

Figured any way you like, the fusionists kept expenditures below the receipts for four long years—and that is what the redeemers have failed signally to do. And that is the "notorious fusion mismanagement" which the governor revealed in such a "clear and forceful manner" while on his tour "rescuing" the state. One cannot help thinking an inaugural ball is no more sinful than a campaign lie.

Will They Do It?

Shortly after election, it will be remembered, Edward Rosewater of the Omaha Bee began in pleading tones to coax the railroads to "submit" to an increase in their taxes. He intimated that if they should act mulish in the matter, it was possible that the people might become aroused and take some radical action in the matter of both taxes and freight rates.

His latest bit of pleading is to the brutal republican majority in the legislature. "For some unsolvable reason," he says, "the impression has gained ground among the people of Nebraska that they have little or nothing to expect in the form of reform legislation from the present session of their lawmakers. This feeling must arise from the fact that both houses are dominated by majorities so overwhelmingly of one party—for there is nothing in the personnel of the members that would indicate inferiority of ability or capacity to preceding legislative bodies in the state. It is to be hoped the people will find this impression to be unfounded for there is important work in abundance

for this legislature to do.

Not to go outside of the pledges of the last republican state platform, the majority members are committed to these positive reforms:

- 1. To provide for the most speedy revision of the state constitution to meet the demands of twentieth century conditions.
2. To enact laws that will hold every custodian of public funds that may come into his possession by virtue of his office responsible for both principal and interest accruing thereon.
3. To adopt measures to increase state revenues and to reduce state debt.
4. To carry out the intent of the constitution for the taxation of all franchises as well as tangible property of corporations and individuals upon a uniform basis of assessment.
5. To create a board of pardons to pass upon applications for executive clemency and make recommendations to the governor according to their findings.
6. To provide for a board of auditors to check up and report on the condition of state finances at stated intervals.

If the majority members of the legislature will give precedence to redeeming these obligations to their party and the people they will keep themselves busy for some time and accomplish something substantial for the progress and prosperity of the state.

The Greatest Hero.

Here's a song for the man, the strong-hearted man

Who whistles and smiles through the hours of the day;
Who sets a high standard, does all that he can,
And scatters bright sunshine along his life's way.
We sing of the heroes on war's bloody field
Who faltered not, facing the battle's grim test,
But here is a song for the man who won't yield
In every-day life, but keeps doing his best.

We sing of the man who, behind the grim gun,
Brave, steady and true, with unfaltering aim,
For country and flag greater glory has won,

And honor by cheering the sound of his name.
But here is a cheer for the man brave and true
Whose patient endeavor knows never a rest;
Who cheerfully labors, ne'er downcast or blue,
And brightens the world just by doing his best.

We cheer when they mention the man of huge wealth

Who builds ornate temples of mortar and stone
With millions secured by a legalized stealth,
And gives them away that his name may be known.
But where is the cheer for the brave man and true
To whom fortune never has come as a guest?
Who, humble and honest, is hidden from view,
But never gives up, and keeps doing his best?

We've honored the heroes of sword and of gun

Who vanquished the foe by their valorous deeds;
We've cheered the gold kings who their millions have won
By profits they've wrung from their fellowmen's needs.
So now let us cheer with our uttermost might

The king of them all who, four-square to each test,
Brave, humble, unknown, with his face to the light
Keeps pegging away and is doing his best.

—Will M. Maupin, in The Commoner.

Justice Will Prevail

Editor Independent: Justice will yet prevail though the present money power say never. It is said if you want money you must go where money is. I have been there and learned how they get it. Many of those that have prospered had been liars and thieves for the bosses and their own advancement. The most ignorant ones were always ready and willing to make detestable slaves of themselves at their master's call. Nothing was too degrading to them while working for the lawlessness of the corrupted ones, for in their narrow-mindedness the dollar was the only god they could see or care for. While such people exist, it may be thought foolish by some

to join in an attack of the money rulers who make the laws or buy the law when needed for their own protection and safety.

We have a work to do if we desire a betterment of our conditions in this beautiful world of ours which was made for man and woman alike and while it may seem as hopeless as it did for David to attack Goliath of Gath it is encouraging to know that there are men and women that dare to think and act both by their voices and pens, the part of godly beings, for all could be happy and free but for the workings of the above classes. However, the strikes and riots must go on to the end, but the time is drawing near when peace will prevail for the godly voices and letters of the far-seeing ones is doing a silent work for good results in many a wavering heart that is at present little thought of by the ones that have been the means of bringing about our present system of corruption.

President Roosevelt and Senator Hanna have spoken warningly to the capitalists of the dangers they are bringing upon themselves. I am expecting some congressman when they are in session will intentionally or unintentionally speak the alarming words as effectively as the first cannon roar did at Fort Sumpter, South Carolina, in 1861, which was heard around the world and eventually broke the chains of colored slavery. Our system has become so corrupt that many are forced to be dishonest in order to get enough to live at all, which in itself is bad enough, but when it comes to have to be dishonorable for corruptors or family sake the crime and sorrow is greater to bear. Some men when seeking work are barefacedly told that it is business with them and if they do not want the job another man will take it.

Religion with some business firms is only for Sunday church advertisements and used mostly by their families. It is not wanted in their business during week days and never when in their full dress suits at the theatres, club rooms, balls or parties of any jovial kind for it often happens that some of them get overloaded with eatables or drinkables and have to be coached or steadied home by some friend or policeman at late hours of the following morning, and if during the day some one calls at the house or office to see one in a business way the servant or clerk says Mr. So-and-So is sick and under the doctor's care and cannot be seen. It is sorrowful that so many of the poor, ignorant and some intelligent ones can be bought to lie for such unworthy ones. Some of them hold public positions and have an abundance of wealth produced for them from the labor of poor men, women, and even children.

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Sure Sign. "I guess Ranter is not making much of a success on the stage." "What makes you think so?" "He's been at it for ten years now and he still has his name printed in capital letters in the house programs."

A Bunch of Them

Some time ago Clem N. Meyers, of North Loup, said he believed independent precinct, Valley county, was the banner fusion precinct of the state. It gave Thompson 44, Mickey 12, or 78 per cent of the vote was fusion.

This caused E. W. Ferguson, jr., of Hartington, to stand up for Cedar county, where three precincts exceeded the percentage of Independent and one equalled it. These are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Precinct, Thomp., Mickey, Fusion. Totals: 313, 52, 85.7

Mr. Ferguson says that in 1896 precinct No. 6 gave Bryan 71 and McKinley 0; that there has been some republican immigration, but the precinct makes a good showing yet. Curiously enough, there were just 71 votes cast both years, and the election statistician, not knowing the facts, would

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read from the figures that 5 former fusionists had deserted and become republicans.

The continuous assaults made upon General Miles by the plutocratic dailies indicate that they think that he is a dangerous man, or likely to become one in the near future, to plutocratic interests. The thing for the common people to do when the dailies constantly assault a man, sneer at him, lie about him and ridicule him, is just to tie to that man for he is one of their friends.

The brazen repudiation of their platform by the republican leaders makes more insistent the demand for the initiative and referendum.

Brain Leaks. Some men never know they have a heart until something hurts it. Only one thing is easier than making a good resolution—breaking it.

There are men who rejoice in notoriety because they imagine it to be fame.

Some men never feel charitably inclined until they discover something they can give away without discommoding themselves.

Different. "Funny thing happened to me Christmas."

"Tell me about it." "Well, my wife didn't know just what to get me for a Christmas present, so as a last resort she bought me a box of cigars, and—say, it makes me laugh to think of it—ha! ha! ha!" "Well, I don't see anything funny about your wife getting you a box of cigars for a present." "You don't? Well, the funny part is—ha! ha! ha!" "That she paid a big price for 'em and they are not fit to smoke." "No; that's where you are wrong. They're the finest cigars I ever smoked in my life. That's what makes it so funny."

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