

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN.

The Oration Delivered by J. L. Webster at Fremont.

A Masterly Argument for the Party in Power and its Splendid Work.

Hon. John L. Webster at Fremont, Sept. 20.

"For twenty-three years has Nebraska had its star among the constellations of the azure blue of the American flag. Stepping into the union with a quarter of a million people she has more than kept pace with the march of the world, until her population has reached 1,150,000. During the last ten years no state in the union has kept an equal pace with her in the growth of her industries, in the extent of her agricultural production, in the development of her mercantile interests, nor in the growth of her population. Considering her youth as a state, she stands without a rival—without a peer among the states of the twenty-three years her political interests and destinies have been under the control of the republican party at the biennial elections. For twenty-three years she has regularly installed a republican governor. At the coming election the republican party will not only honor itself, but will honor your city of Fremont by the election of Governor Richards.

"In the days of our young statehood we learned our republicanism from such old stalwarts as Oliver P. Morton, Benjamin F. Wade and Charles Sumner. Later on the fires of party spirit were kept burning by the patriotic bravery of a Garfield and the political genius of a Roscoe Conkling. We still have with us the sterling integrity of John Sherman and the brilliant enthusiasm of James G. Blaine.

"We have with us men in our own party in this state who learned their republicanism from the career of the martyred Lincoln. We have with us boys who learned their republicanism while marching from Atlanta to the sea with Gen. Sherman. We have with us boys who learned their republicanism with Sheridan while sweeping through the valleys of the Shenandoah. We have with us boys who learned their republicanism with Hooker while sweeping the clouds from Lookout mountain. We have with us boys who learned their republicanism while Gen. Grant kept the flag aloft at Appomattox. These are the boys whose republicanism still remains true to their state and their flag, and who will not forget their old comrade, Richards, on election day.

"During the last two years missionaries of discontent, discord and dissension have been traveling over this state, trying to disrupt the old republican party and to build up on its ruins a mongrel institution, sailing under the name of the 'People's' and the 'Alliance' party. This new mongrel party resembles its democratic ally in that it is like an old government mule—with-out pride of ancestry and without hope of posterity.

"Are we to forsake the old party whose great deeds and grand achievements have ripened into a magnificent history, because Kem tells the people that he is against the government? Are we to forsake the old party because Burrows tells the people that Bill McKinley, and not overproduction, has made corn cheap? Are we to forsake the old party because David Butler tries to make the people believe that he can operate a railroad better than Vanderbilt? Are we to forsake the old party because McKimhan tells the people that the tariff has enhanced the prices of what the farmer buys?

"I have been reading the speeches of Kem, of McKimhan, of Bryan and of Powers, so far as they have gone into print and come under my observation. So far I have failed to observe that any one of these persons has brought forward any statement of facts to support his assertions. The result of the tariff system has been just the reverse of what these people say. I have made it my business to inquire of the merchants of the city of Omaha what were the prices in 1880 of all the articles usually purchased by the farmer, and I find the average reduction in price during the ten years under the tariff system is equal to about one-half the cost in 1880.

"Let me give you a tabulated statement of some of these prices:

ARTICLES.	Price, 1880.	Price, 1890.
Self-blinder.....	\$215.00	\$120.00
Corn plow and check	80.00	40.00
Fourteen-inch steel beam	28.00	14.00
Riding cultivator.....	45.00	25.00
Walking cultivator.....	35.00	20.00
Mowing machine.....	90.00	45.00
Stowbridge cedar.....	35.00	15.00
Wood pump.....	15.00	6.00
Farm wagon.....	50.00	25.00
Two-seated spring wagon.....	150.00	75.00
Barbed wire per pound.....	10.00	5.00
Iron nails, per keg.....	6.00	2.50
Steel nails, per keg.....	7.00	2.80
Plain wire, per pound.....	6 1/2	3 1/2
Wash boiler.....	25.00	15.00
Stove per job.....	15.00	8.00
Horseshoes, per keg.....	3.00	1.50
Tool steel, per pound.....	25.00	12 1/2
Flow steel, per pound.....	15.00	7.50
Cook stove.....	33.00	16.50
Mattock and handle.....	1.40	.70
French plow.....	75.00	37.50
Four-tined fork.....	75.00	37.50
Milk pans, per dozen.....	2.25	1.00
Buggy springs, per pair.....	2.25	1.00
Post augur.....	2.25	1.00
Cast washers, per pound.....	5.00	2.50
Slop pail.....	1.00	.50
Door hinges.....	15.00	7.50
Zinc, per pound.....	15.00	7.50
Door knobs.....	20.00	10.00
Chains, per pound.....	25.00	12.50
File.....	65.00	32.50
Tin, per sheet.....	35.00	17.50
Door latches.....	25.00	12.50
Basket.....	45.00	22.50
Door key.....	10.00	5.00
Covered path.....	20.00	10.00
Wheelerbarrow.....	1.65	.82
Oil can.....	85.00	42.50
Plane.....	80.00	40.00
Pie plates, per dozen.....	4.00	2.00
Mortise lock.....	35.00	17.50
Ostern pump.....	4.25	2.12
Universal wrench.....	3.00	1.50

"When these people tell you that the tariff has increased the price of any article which the farmer buys ask the orator to stand in his place and tell you what the article is. They tell you that the tariff has increased the price of crockery and chinaware, when the fact is that within the last nine years, under that tariff system, which has encouraged the production of china and crockery within the United States, the price has diminished from 30 to 40 per cent.

"There are men here old enough to remember the time when the picture of the lion and the unicorn—the English emblem of supremacy—was upon the bottom of every plate upon our table. The price of such a plate was so great as to justify the bouncing of the servant girl out of the window if she allowed one of them to fall upon the floor. Today the price of such articles, under the American tariff, and by American production, is so cheap that you can throw the whole table set right through the motto, 'God Save Our Home,' and nobody complain.

"They complain of the tariff on wool with the statement that it has so increased the price of carpets that the laboring man can not save enough money in a year to buy a carpet to put upon his parlor floor. I ask these men to go over to the poor laborer in England and Germany and find the laboring man that can save enough money, under the European wage system to even buy a floor to put a carpet upon.

"They tell us that a tariff on wool has so increased the price of clothing that the laborer and farmer can not afford to wear a broadcloth coat. But a few weeks ago, in Chicago, I witnessed the parade on Labor day of 20,000 laboring men. And I say to you that I never saw so large a body of men together who universally wore such good clothes. The labor parades in France and Germany and Italy brought forth thousands upon thousands of men dressed in rags and tatters and many bare-footed and bare-headed, for the reason that under the low wage system they could not save money enough to keep their bleeding feet from treading on the rough stones and protect their bare heads from the hot sun of heaven.

"The tariff system of America by the enhancement of wages has made labor respectable and honorable. It has furnished employment to millions of men. It is fast transplanting the manufacturer from Europe to the soil of America. It has added millions of men to the consumers of the agricultural products. By the increasing of our home consumption it has added to the price of what is produced by the farmers. By this system there has been added to the price of the agricultural products of this country a sum of money annually greater than the whole amount of tariff paid under the present revenue system.

"God gave to the people of Nebraska a soil well adapted for the raising of flax seed as well as of corn. Yet we seem never to have found it out until after the war tariff came along and a tariff of 20 cents per bushel was put upon flax seed and a tariff of 25 cents per gallon on linseed oil.

"Clark Woodman of Omaha, believing that the farmers of Nebraska could profitably devote a portion of her land to the raising of flax seed, himself purchased the seed in 1870, loaned it out to the farmers of this state and entered into an agreement with a number of farmers to purchase all the flax seed they raised. In 1870, under the beneficent protection of the tariff, he concluded to embark his money in the building of insect oil works in the city of Omaha, investing a capital of \$30,000.

"This little plant has grown from its small beginning until today it has a capital of \$1,100,000. Its great mills, smokestacks and warehouses tower up above the surrounding structures, so that the immensity of the institution can be seen from every hillside of the city. During these twenty years of growth that institution has purchased from the farmers of this state 7,100,000 bushels of flax seed and has paid to the farmers therefore \$3,577,000 in money. During these twenty years 6,000,000 acres of land have been devoted to raising flax seed. It was the diverting of 6,000,000 acres of land from the raising of cheap corn to the raising of a new product, which brought about a new source of revenue and created diversified interests.

"During this same twenty years this institution has furnished employment for a vast number of mechanics and skilled laborers and paid them the sum of \$3,485,000. Its money has gone forth to buy machinery—thus adding to the laboring interests of the iron industries. Its money has gone forth to purchase lumber to build its big institutions—thus contributing to those who delve in the deep forests. It has paid out its money to skilled artisans, who reared its massive structures—thus giving employment and adding to the revenue of the carpenters.

"During these twenty years the oil and oak cake produced and sold throughout the entire expanse of the United States has brought back to the state of Nebraska in money \$16,085,000. This institution has a present capacity for handling 8,000 bushels of flax seed per day, or about 1,000,000 bushels per year. During the present season this institution will distribute among the farmers of this state, for flax seed, more than \$1,000,000.

"Here is a great institution, standing as a monument of the beneficent and wide-spread influence of the American protective tariff system, the benefits of which go to the farmers alone. Wipe out your tariff and that big institution must become a waste place and the farmers of the state lose a million dollars a year.

"McKeighan tells the people in his congressional district that the low price of corn in 1889 was due to underconsumption. Time has demonstrated that it was due to overproduction.

"The farmers of our state have seemingly insisted upon devoting their time and energies to the raising of corn, and seem to have become angry because the corn crop of last year was enormous—that God did not make the people use more than they wanted. That same God that makes the 'rain to fall upon the just and the unjust' alike, seems to have staid His hand in the year 1890 and diminished the corn crop so as to bring it down to the demands of the people. And the result was that prices advanced to 45 cents per bushel. There is no answer to this financial condition of prices of corn, except that there was an overproduction in 1889. In the face of this stern fact, the alliance party and the democratic party howl for free trade—howl for the destruction of our

manufacturing industries. They would drive out the laborers from the machine shops. They would stop the whirl of the spindle. They would close up the iron mills. They would put out the fires in the furnaces. They would turn loose from their employment the millions of men which the tariff has fostered and compelled them to earn their living by plowing the farms and raising grains, diminishing consumption and adding to farm production.

"Is it not self evident that such a doctrine must lead to the depreciation in prices of all that the farmers raise?"

"THE PUBLIC WAREHOUSEMEN.

"The republican party is the only party that has ever proposed an adequate remedy for this condition of affairs. Let me right you where the republican party, by its platform, has declared itself to be the true friend of the farmer, and proposes to give him a remedy against low price, caused by a temporary overproduction:

CROPS IN NEBRASKA FOR 1890.

	Bushels.	Value.
Corn.....	149,543,000	\$19,845,000
Wheat.....	19,845,000	2,976,750
Oats.....	28,962,000	3,520,250
Total.....	198,350,000	26,342,000
Average price of corn per bushel.....	13c	
Last spring.....	13c (12 to 14c.)	
At present.....	20c	
Difference.....	7c	
United States agricultural department estimate for home consumption twenty-five bushels of corn per capita.....	250	
Nebraska consumes at this ratio.....	1,150,000	
Total yield.....	149,543,000	
Home consumption.....	24,125,000	
Surplus.....	125,418,000	
VALUE.		
At present, at 22c.....	\$27,591,140	
Last spring, at 15c.....	\$23,767,500	
Difference.....	\$3,823,640	
Increase in value, 22 per cent.....	\$6,064,128	
Gain on corn export.....	\$35,791,128	
Assured last year's wheat and oats and wheat crop same as last year, viz: 46,811,000 bushels, the rise in price from 15c to 20c per bushel; 46,811,000 bushels at 20 cents.....	9,362,200	
Total gain.....	\$45,153,328	

"Above will show what the farmers and business men would have gained on the crops with suitable storage capacity in the state, under a public warehouse law, such as called for by the warehouse resolution in the republican platform adopted at the last state convention.

"The democratic and alliance platforms contain no such resolution. Hence, no relief can be looked for from that quarter.

"Under the existing law a grain elevator is not a public warehouse. Hence, the owner can refuse to receive grain for storage. This forces the farmer to sell his grain or dump it on the ground if he does not burn it. It results in dress and great sacrifice, as shown above, and subsidies to the chattel mortgage agencies.

"A public warehouse law—as the republican platform proposes—compels the elevator companies to receive, ship, store and handle grain, without discrimination, under penalty, and compels the railroad companies to do the same. Under its provisions a farmer can store his grain and take advantage of the market. He can ship it anywhere and hold it as long as he pleases, provided he pays the necessary charges for storage and inspection, as regulated by the state; also insurance and the necessary freight charges—if he ships it elsewhere.

"When he stores his grain the elevator gives him a receipt. This is considered the very best collateral by the banks. They will lend money on it within a certain per cent or proportion of its value, at a low rate of interest. If on a call loan Chicago banks have loaned as low as 3 per cent per annum. If on a time loan the farmer can hold his grain as long as he pays the interest, and this all the way with a vast amount of chattel loans.

"It will also open the grain markets of Nebraska to all classes of buyers, and in this way the farmer can get the best prices for his grain. Had such a law been in force in 1889 it would have enabled the farmers of Nebraska to have saved \$35,000,000.

"FEDERAL ELECTION LAW.

"The democratic party of this state, in one sentence of their platform, declare in favor of a ballot free from corruption and intimidation, and in another sentence condemn the republican party for its effort to pass a federal election law.

"The republican party has ever been in favor of a free ballot, north and south. The democratic party has never been in favor of a free ballot where that freedom would put out of congress three-fourths of all the democrats elected from the southern states, who hold their seats by reason of the suppression of republican votes.

"The democratic party of the solid south, by its election frauds, has appropriated to itself thirty-eight members of congress to which it is not entitled, and asks the nation to let this monstrous crime against free suffrage pass with silent neglect.

"The republican party believes in an election law that would give to the most powerful and potent citizens above its influence, and that the poorest and humblest citizen in the nation can safely rest beneath its protecting power.

"The enslavement of the eight millions of colored human beings by intimidation and intimidation—is no better than the slavery we had before the war. The Anglo-Saxon sense of justice, which put a million men into the field in defense of a down-trodden race, will not permit this injustice to exist much longer.

"No democrat in congress who has spoken against the federal election law has ever denied that intimidation, threats, frauds and ballot-box stealing prevail throughout the south. The democrats tell us that peace and quiet prevail in the south. So is a cemetery quiet. Tacitus said to the Romans: 'You harass, you despoil and you butcher; you steal governments; you make a solitude and call it peace.'

after the enactment of the law, and should insert the three commandments: 'Thou Shalt Not Steal; Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness; Thou Shalt Not Kill'; the democratic party would still declare it an assault on the south and the reserved rights of the states.

"The republican party believes that the men who in peace crawl to the ballot box, where they repose the latest hour of a nation's sovereign will, and take its life, is an assassin whose crime cannot be expiated.

"The down-trodden colored people of the South, in the land stretching from Atlanta to the gulf, and from the Mississippi to the Atlantic, are holding up their heads in prayerful solicitude to see republican party of the North to grant them relief, but the democratic party declares that it must not be granted.

"When the republican party said that the proclamation of liberty should go forth over all that southern region, declaring that every colored man in the service of the South in that struggle against your homes and against mine—against your constitution and against mine—should be free, the democratic party said you must not do it. But we did.

"When the republicans said, we will amend the constitution to guard and protect the manhood of the colored people by making the citizens of the United States, the democratic party said you must not do it. But we did.

"When the klu-klux-klan swept over the South with the destructive power of a cyclone, and with a vengeance almost equal to the murderous assassination of the Huguenots, the republican party said, we will stop it by the strong arm of the law and military government. The democratic party, with horrible visions of the destruction of state rights, said you must not do it. But we did.

"Now, after twenty-five years of election frauds, of suppression of the colored votes, of stolen ballot boxes, of intimidation, of threats of murder, these colored people hold up their hands in political prayer to the North for relief, and the republican party has undertaken to say, we will pass a federal election law for their relief, and the democratic party has said, you must not do it. But we will.

"We must make the democratic party of the North and South understand, by the strong arm of the government if need be, that every citizen—white or black—shall have the right to freely vote as he pleases, and have that vote fairly counted.

"If Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner and Henry Wilson and Ben Wade could come back to earth and see how the old republican party had, for these many years, quietly submitted to democratic suppression of the colored vote in the South, and could take their old places in the United States senate, they would speak to us a rebuke in such tones of thunder as would make the republic quake from ocean to ocean until this last act of public justice was accomplished.

"TOM REED.

"The behavior of the democrats in the present congress has reached the extremity of forbearance. At every step they have tried to impede legislation. They were elected by the people to vote on national measures, yet, while drawing their salaries from the national treasury, they have sat in their seats like mummies and refused to answer to their names when called.

"When the speaker is trying to get a quorum to transact business they flee to the cloakrooms or the corridors. Their ignominious conduct has continued the present session of congress to the expense of the nation of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"They have always been present to oppose legislation, but never present to pass appropriations to run the government. They have never been present to do good, but always present to raise hell.

"The republican party and the nation can thank God that Tom Reed presides in the speaker's chair. If you don't believe the Lord is on our side, look at the returns from the elections in Maine."

A BRILLIANT RECORD.

What the Republican Party Has Done in 25 Years.

A Little History on Which is Promised Victory for November.

Hon. John C. Watson at Fremont, Sept. 20th.

"The republican party of the state of Nebraska tonight enters upon its thirtieth gubernatorial campaign. In round numbers it is a quarter of a century since the party was formed in Nebraska, and the meeting is in the nature of the party's silver wedding, for at the end of Gov. L. D. Richards' first term it will be about the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Nebraska as a state in the union. The party as then organized entered upon its first state campaign, from which it emerged triumphant. In each successive year have Nebraska republicans followed its party standard to victory. Twelve times has Nebraska elected a republican governor; twelve times has it declared for the republican judiciary; six times has it cast its electoral vote for the republican presidential candidate. Though other states—Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, even Iowa—have sometimes favored and failed, Nebraska never. Our colors, thanks to the courage and consistency of our leaders and the bravery and patriotic leadership of our rank and file, have never been lowered. The order to retreat has never been heard along our line, but after each political battle we have occupied the field from which the enemy had fled.

Twenty-three years ago the republican party of Nebraska took possession of the state government, and well and worthily has it discharged its trusts and ministered to the progress and prosperity of the state. The party took it as a state of 50,000 population; it holds it to-day an empire commonwealth with more than a million inhabitants. The party came into power with an estimated value of taxable property in its twenty-eight counties was \$49,000,000; it holds it today when the taxable wealth of its ninety counties runs up \$250,000,000. The party has covered the state honestly and well. It found it in debt \$500,000. Today it is out of debt, something that cannot be said of any state with an alliance or prohibition or a democratic governor. It has been in the party aim in the administration of the state government to subserve the public good and to maintain untarnished the credit and high character of the state; to promote economy in every department, and in all respects to be faithful and true in the traditions and principles which have governed the country for the past century.

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"The republican party believes that the men who in peace crawl to the ballot box, where they repose the latest hour of a nation's sovereign will, and take its life, is an assassin whose crime cannot be expiated.

"The down-trodden colored people of the South, in the land stretching from Atlanta to the gulf, and from the Mississippi to the Atlantic, are holding up their heads in prayerful solicitude to see republican party of the North to grant them relief, but the democratic party declares that it must not be granted.

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far republican organization, by the party which has turned its back on any man because he was poor, or because he was ignorant, or because he was black. Let us join hand to hand in the ranks of this noble party, and liberty shall be saved for the future of the land.

Republican State Platform.

The republicans of Nebraska reiterate and cordially endorse the fundamental principles of the republican party, as ascertained by the succession of national republican conventions from 1856 to 1888, and we believe the republican party to be the only party in the American people who ever held the rank and file of the republican party in the administration of the state government to subserve the public good and to maintain untarnished the credit and high character of the state; to promote economy in every department, and in all respects to be faithful and true in the traditions and principles which have governed the country for the past century.

We heartily endorse the wise and conservative administration of President Harrison. We also rally approvingly every action of the republican members of both houses of congress in fulfilling the pledges of the party in legislation upon the coinage of silver and measures of national importance, and congratulate the country upon the reduction of the national debt.

We most heartily endorse the action of the republican congress in passing the disability pension bill, and the republican president who approved the same, and regard it as an act of justice, too long delayed, because of the opposition to all just pension legislation by a democratic president and a democratic congress. Yet we do not regard it as the full recognition of the great debt of obligation which the government and the people owe to those heroic men by reason of whose sacrifices and devotion the union was saved and the government restored. We do further repeat our declaration in favor of a just and fair service pension, graded according to the length of service for every soldier and sailor who fought in behalf of the union and by reason of whose service and devotion the government now exists.

We reaffirm in the most solemn manner that we hold an honest popular ballot, and a just and equal representation of all the people to be the foundation of our republican government, and demand effective legislation to secure the integrity and purity of elections, which are the foundation of all public authority.

We favor such revision of the election laws of the states as will guarantee to every voter the greatest possible secrecy in the casting of his ballot, and secure the punishment of any who attempt the corruption or intimidation of voters, and we favor the Australian ballot system for all incorporated towns and cities, applicable both to primary and regular elections, so far as it can conform to organic laws.

We oppose land monopoly in every form, demand the forfeiture of unearned land grants, and the reservation of the public domain for homesteaders only.

We recognize the rights of labor to organize for its protection, and by all lawful and peaceful means to secure to itself the greatest reward for its thrift and industry.

We are in favor of laws compelling railroads and manufactories to use all appliances which science supplies for the protection of laborers against accidents. We demand the enactment of a law defining the liability of employers for injuries sustained by employes in cases where proper safeguards have not been used in occupations dangerous to life, limb or health.

Railway and other public corporations should be subject to control through the legislative power that created them. Their undue influence in legislation, and the imposition of unnecessary burdens upon the people, and the illegitimate increase of stock or capital should be prohibited by the strongest laws.

We demand the enactment of a law defining the liability of employers for injuries sustained by employes in cases where proper safeguards have not been used in occupations dangerous to life, limb or health.

We demand the reduction of freight and passenger rates on railroads to correspond with rates now prevailing in the adjacent states in the Mississippi valley, and we further demand that the next legislature shall abolish all passes or free transportation on railroads excepting for employes of the railroad companies.

We demand the establishment of the system of postal telegraph, and request our members in congress to vote and work for the government ownership or control of the telegraph.

We endorse the action of the interstate commission in ordering a reduction of the grain rates between the Missouri river and the lake ports of the adjacent states in the Mississippi valley, and we further demand that the next legislature shall abolish all passes or free transportation on railroads excepting for employes of the railroad companies.

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