

# IT PAYS HIM TO BE A REFORMER

### How the Pop Attorney General is Growing Rich at the Expense of the Public.

## TRUTHS FROM A NEBRASKA VETERAN.

### Mr. Croaker and Mr. Higgins Again--The Good Housewife Not Going to Provide Any More Fried Chicken for Looters of State and County Treasuries.

How Reform Pays Attorney General Smyth.

The Lincoln correspondent to the Omaha Bee looks up "Reformer" Smyth's records at the state house, and gives the result of his findings as follows:

Of all the state officers under the present administration Attorney General Smyth seems to have had the least regard for the state constitution. The records show that he has been engaged in a grab game during all the time that he has been in office and instead of upholding the constitution in its strict letter, he has, figuratively speaking, trampled that document in the dust whenever and wherever he has had the chance for financial gain in so doing. The constitution (Article v, section 24) provides that the salary of the attorney general shall be \$2,000 per year, "and after the adoption of this constitution they shall not receive to their own use any fees, costs, interest upon public moneys in their hands or under their control, prerequisites of office or other compensation." The same section provides that "there shall be no allowance for clerk hire in the offices of the superintendent of public instruction and attorney general." Section 26 of the same article is in full as follows: "No other executive state office shall be continued or created, and the duties now devolving upon officers not provided for by this constitution shall be performed by the officers herein created."

The provisions have caused C. J. Smyth no uneasiness. There are vouchers on file at the state house to show that he has up to date drawn the following sums of money:

Official salary ..... \$3,499.33  
Maximum rate case ..... 375.26  
Governor's prosecution fund .. 168.85  
Traveling expenses ..... 423.05  
TOTAL ..... \$4,553.52

### PLENTY OF HELP IN THE OFFICE.

Besides these amounts the deputy attorney general has been drawing pay at the rate of \$150 per month and has taken all the trimmings that came his way. There has been employed in the office a clerk who has drawn up to date \$1,500, and besides this extra help a stenographer has been employed in the office most of time, the compensation running about \$1,000. The pay for this latter clerk has been taken from the fund provided for the governor to aid in the prosecution of state officials, and from various incidental funds, the scraping up of the salary of the extra clerk, reminding one of Rewick's manipulation of the amusement fund at the asylum. The constitution has been evaded by calling one clerk a deputy, another a "stenographer" and the female clerk is simply paid and called "expense" on the records, which designation, so far as the taxpayers are concerned, is quite correct. This large office force, which seems to have been expressly prohibited by the constitution, has attended to the business of the office, and the attorney general has thus been able to spend most of his time at home attending to his private business or instructing the voters on political matters. The various pretenses under which Smyth has pulled "perquisites" out of the public treasury show up in an interesting manner on the record. The following is the wording of a few of them:

Voucher 1334, drawn July 30, 1897--"Railroad fare and hotel bill to Chicago, taking deposition in State against Mosher et al, \$85.15."

Voucher 10026, March 31, 1897--"Expense, viz.: Railroad fare, hotel bills and expenses in connection with preparation of reply brief in maximum rate cases, \$180."

Voucher 23840, July 30--"Railroad fare, hotel bills and expense to Washington pending motion and submitting maximum rate cases, \$195.26."

Voucher 13339, July 30--"Going to and returning from O'Neill in case State against Bartley, \$21.20."

Voucher 21281, May 10, 1898--"Expense to Washington attending supreme court of the United States in the matter of motion for rehearing in maximum rate cases as follows: Railroad fare, \$76.25; hotel bills, \$53.75."

Voucher 17744, December 21, 1897--"Railroad fare and hotel bills in case of Board against State before commissioner of general land office at Washington, \$151. Also hotel expenses and money paid out for stenographic assistance in State against Bartley, \$50."

### SOME PECULIARITIES PRESENTED.

There are some peculiarities about these vouchers, and the public will wonder how Smyth managed to perform such expensive services when nobody was looking. For instance, voucher 17744 is drawn against the fund provided for "traveling expenses," and the \$50 for hotel bills and stenographer in the Bartley case was when Smyth was at home in Omaha and he must have strained a great deal to figure in the hotel bill or designate the stenographer as "traveling expense."

It will be noticed, too, that there is a doubling up in the vouchers for the maximum rate case expense, so that by swearing to three separate bills he managed to draw \$375.26 from the maximum rate case fund and \$133 from the "traveling expense" fund, all for the same service, and on a junket to Washington that resulted in no good to the state of Nebraska. All this time the official salary of the attorney general was going on and was being drawn with startling regularity, the maximum rate bonanza being a "perquisite" pure and simple. The fact that he carried

"Late to do a lot of things that this reform movement has been promising this state for ten years," said Croaker, with some show of anger. "An' late to undo a lot of things that's been done by the reform movement?"

"Well, what, for instance?" said Higgins. "Of course we've made some mistakes. Can't deny that. But any party's liable to make a mistake now and then."

"Mistake!" said Croaker, "mistake! Was it a mistake for these reform treasurers to rob their counties of \$200,000 an' not a word of denunciation in any reform paper or any reform convention?"

"Parties'll sometimes make mistakes in the selection of their men for office," said Higgins, soothingly.

"I admit that," said Croaker, "but when a political party has made a mistake an' the man it put into office is caught stealin' then isn't it the duty of that party to denounce that thief? Show me a word, Higgins, or a line in any reform newspaper or in the resolutions of any fusion convention in this state denouncing this \$200,000 steal by these fusion officials or admit that there was any defaulters in Nebraska except republicans! Didn't the republican state convention an' over the state denounce the Bartley and Moore defaults an' didn't they prosecute these men an' didn't they burn the brand into 'em so deep that it never can be rubbed out? Why didn't these counties where these fusion defaults occurred denounce the defaulters and prosecute 'em to a finish an' why didn't the fusion papers have grit enough and honesty enough to scourge the raskall an' make their betrayal odious? The republican party had a voice an' when Bartley defaulted it uttered a protest. The fusion party when it saw this trail of default which its officials were makin' all over the state closed its eyes an' its ears an' muzzled its cowardly press an' laid down in the slime of its own corruption hopin' that the crime of Bartley would hide it from the public view."

"What a reform party good for if it debates itself at the very first opportunity an' then lays down in it? What's a temperance lecturer good for if he keeps whisky in the house, gets drunk on the sly, chokes his wife to keep her from tellin' the neighbors an' then goes brothern an' sistern around among the people squeezin' the women's hands an' thinkin' that his miserable hypocrisy is hid? It ain't hid, Higgins, it ain't hid!"

"Reckon that was a party mistake," said Higgins, "not denouncin' this \$200,000 steal, a party mistake, that no one in particular is responsible for. What's everybody's business is nobody's business, you know, Brother Croaker."

"I see your argument," said Croaker, "I see. It's the same old dodgin' game 'at you've played ever since you got the county sheriff bee in your bonnet. If you can hold this fusion business in one line until you get your mouths to the public tit a few years that's all you want. It was everybody's business if a republican defaulted, but it was nobody's business if these fusion wolves stole every dollar they could get their hands on. These defaults occurred, Higgins, in counties where the reformers were in authority. They had the judges an' the prosecutors an' the sheriffs an' the juries an' they let the defaulters go free. In Holt county, where two pop county treasurers have defaulted for \$9,000, the pop commissioners compromised it for \$3,000."

"But, Brother Croaker, you must remember that there was a republican county treasurer defaulted in Holt county."

"Yes, Barrett Scott defaulted there, an' the pop Klutz murdered him after he was convicted an' then turned their own thieves loose at 33 1/3 cents on the dollar. Higgins, I've voted for this so-called reform gang, but it didn't make a rasal out of me an' it haint goin' to. I tell you, Higgins, if this reform party has no self-respect I have an' the party 'at gets my vote has got to shoulder some responsibility. We organize parties, Higgins, not for the purpose of complainin' in' the wrongs which exist, but for the purpose of rightin' 'em. I didn't help organize this people's movement for the purpose of keepin' up a calamity howl year after year an' gettin' a lot of pass grabbers an' bum politicians on the state pay roll. There's nothin' in that for me."

"But, Brother Croaker," said Higgins, "you must remember an' then turn the state lost half a million by Joe Bartley."

"No," said Croaker, "that is not true."

"Didn't Bartley take the money?"

"Yes, but Bartley didn't approve the straw bond. That was the governor's business, an' there's where the loss come in. You can have a defaultin' treasurer but you can't have a loss without a defaultin' governor. The republicans had the treasurer an' we had the governor. The treasurer defaulted in handlin' the money and the governor defaulted in handlin' the bond. Bartley held one key and the governor held the other. The people said to Bartley, 'you take the money, an' don't ye steal any of it.' But they didn't stop there. They didn't take Bartley's word for it, not much. They turned to the governor an' said to him, 'You look out for that bond. That's your business. You've come in here to watch these republicans an' now watch 'em. An' the governor held up his hand an' swore 'at he'd do it, but he didn't. Higgins, Hoakum was no more use to the people of this state in that transaction than a stuffed dogskin'd be in front of a hen roost. Watch dog o' the treasury! That's what they called him when he was runnin' for the office. Watch dog! There's been a great many watch dogs in this reform movement. They must howl'n all over Platte county while the treasury was bein' looted of \$30,000 an' growl'n all over Merrick county while the treasurer was stealin' \$34,000. The watch dogs was on the lookout in Custer county while the county treasurer an' county judge and a lot o' township treasurers was stealin' an' in Greeley county there was a pop watch dog in every section corner howl'n an' growl'n day and night while a pop treasurer was defaultin' for \$30,000 an' two pop postmasters for \$7,000. What we need, Higgins, in this reform movement is some common ordinary dogs to watch these watch dogs. Bartley took the money, but Hoakum is re-

sponsible for the loss of it to the state an' Higgins, you can't get around that. If Hoakum had done his duty as he swore he would, an' if these pop county treasurers had been honest and had been required to give good bonds, this \$550,000 of the Bartley stealin' an' the \$200,000 of the pop stealin' would not have been lost."

"But," said Higgins, "ye must remember, Brother Croaker, 'at Governor Hoakum was not on the lookout for a put-up job an' a straw bond when he went into that office."

"Well, why wasn't he on the lookout? What was he elected for? To draw house rent an' to play solitaire with his annual passes? Did you expect the janitor to go snoopin' round in the basement o' the state house lookin' for put-up jobs an' straw bonds? Wasn't Hoakum elected on the theory 'at there was somethin' cracked in the treasury, an' wasn't he sent to the state house to straighten it? What I want is a reform that will reform, an' not shirk responsibility."

"But you'll come to the rally next week," said Higgins, good naturedly, "an' Sister Croaker'll bring some o' her famous fried chicken. Brother Mutz an' Brother Porter'll be there to speak to you."

"I'll answer for her," said Croaker. "She'll try no chicken for Mutz. Mutz has had chicken enough. The employees o' the state institutions has been chasin' chickens for Mutz for nearly two years, an' Porter's been gettin his vegetables from the state an' usin' the janitors for hog killin' purposes. Higgins, if you want a rally, go an' hunt up some men 'at has no self-respect. Don't talk to me."

Higgins went home.

### Truth from a Nebraska Veteran.

From the Falls City (Neb.) Times.

Chas Ricards who was forage master at Tampa, Florida, for four months, and who is now in our city, was seen by a reporter of the Times and among many interesting things he can talk about, that of his late experience in actual service at camp in Tampa is just now the most interesting to us. And when we drew our note book and pencil, he paused for a moment, and said, "I do not care to be quoted in the paper, but I am an administration man and know that much that has been published is untrue and amounts, not only to unjust criticism of the war department but to a disgrace to the American volunteer. At first, when we read such slush in the New York papers, we obtained much amusement, for we knew both sides would laugh at it. But when we saw that it was trumped up and used for political effect, it had the opposite effect upon us, for the average volunteer is an American patriot, whatever else he is. There were 45,000 soldiers in this camp and 2,800 government employes, and yet there were but 23 buried there, notwithstanding we were there about three months. It might have been a mistake to choose Tampa for a summer camp for northern men, but the idea was understood it was that we were being acclimated for further use in Cuba. The cessation of hostilities put an end to our show in Cuba, however, before we had a chance to see how well we were seasoned for the trip. It makes me so darned mad when I see people who aspire to office maligning the administration, when history does not contain an account of anything approaching the vast amount of business that was done in ninety days, preceding the cessation of hostilities. Just think of it--200,000 soldiers mustered in, clothed, fed, ammunition, coal and numberless other things provided--Why, sir, in my department alone, I received and issued eighteen carloads of stuff every day, and our department was nothing compared with what the commissary and quartermaster had. Then, too, people of the north forget that all this stuff must be bought and shipped from the north, there being nothing there from which to draw. From May 15 to September 1, we received at camp 6,000 car loads of stuff. To give you an idea of how swift our administration is, in ten days they bought and equipped 1,000 six-mule teams.

I have sixty-seven men under me and we had but one sick man. He had typhoid fever, but got well. The fact is, men can not eat trash of all kinds, drink beer, and expose themselves in that country without suffering from sickness peculiar to that climate. But pop county treasurers and the administration they are as far from the truth as the east is from the west."

We submit this statement from a man who served in the war of the '60's.

### Equalizes Acetylene Gas Generation.

In order to control the generation of acetylene gas from calcium carbide, Letang and Serpillet propose, in a communication to the French Physical Society, to steep the fragments of calcium carbide in a hot and concentrated solution of glucose, says a foreign exchange. If the carbide thus treated is, after drying, immersed in twice its weight of water, acetylene is given off in the usual way, and at the same time a saccate of lime is formed by the interaction of the glucose, the calcium and the oxygen. Under these conditions the generation of the acetylene takes place with great uniformity and is stopped almost immediately on cutting off the supply of water.

### A Paradise for Women.

In the matter of woman's rights Abyssinia is far ahead of Europe and America. According to an authority, the house and all its contents belong to her, and if the husband offends her she not only can, but does, turn him out of doors till he is duly repentant and makes amends by the gift of a cow or the half of a camel--that is to say, half the value of a camel. On the other hand, it is the privilege and duty of the wife to abuse the husband, and she can divorce herself from him at pleasure, whereas the husband must show reasons to justify such an act on his part.

Meda Wilhite, of Backner, Ky., now 4 years old, is probably the largest child of her age in the country. She weighs 120 pounds, has a chest measurement of 38 inches and is four feet high.

## MY POPULIST FRIEND.

### HIS WIFE TEACHES HIM A LESSON IN PERSISTENCY.

How the Tariff Enhanced the Value of the Sheep He Sold in Order to Invest in Some Government War Bonds.

In argument my Populist friend seldom knows when he is beaten. He had chafed sorely over his gentle wife's reminder of the vivid contrast presented by the facts of history and the dismal foreshadowings of the calamity-croakers whose lead he had followed for several years past. She had, you will remember, in the last conversation pointed out the splendid achievements of a great nation in the war just closed, and the splendid outlook for progress and humanity growing out of those achievements, and had asked him how he reconciled these things with the declaration of the Populist platform:

"We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, material and political ruin."

And when he had apologized for this ridiculous asseveration as among the first utterances of a new party six years ago, the good wife reminded him of something more recent in the same line, when, only two years ago, he had carried a banner which declared that:

"A vote for McKinley means 25 cents a bushel for wheat and 10 cents a bushel for corn."

So my Populist friend had retired from the controversy hurt and humiliated. But he had been thinking of things over night, and the next day he sought to recover some of his lost ground. "Tell me," he cried, pointing his finger scornfully at his wife, "tell me, if you can, what McKinley has to do for the prosperity of the farmers; point out, if you know how, where the toiling masses on the farms get one direct benefit from him and his protective tariff policy."

"Oh, husband," she stamped her foot lightly, betraying the impatience which she felt, "how can you be so inconsistent? Where did you get the money to buy the few hundred dollars' worth of government bonds, which made you feel so good? What did you sell?"

"Sheep," he flinched before the argument which he knew was coming.

"Yes, sheep. Your business sense was better than your political sense, thank goodness. When McKinley's election was assured didn't you buy sheep? Didn't you think they would go up? What made you think that? Was it because you thought that more wool or less wool would be imported under the laws he would give us? Didn't you know that his tariff law, his protective tariff law, on wool would shut out most of the cheap wool

England, but bought of Russia and Serbia and Spain and Turkey and Argentina and Peru and Falkland Islands and Africa and Australasia, and goodness only knows where not. That wool was gathered from all over and brought here for you and other farmers to wear.

"Think of it! What nonsense! Yet too true; over \$33,000,000 worth in a single year. That is raw wool alone, to say nothing of the nearly \$50,000,000 worth of manufactured goods that came in. Can you wonder that there was a great reduction in the size of American flocks and a greater reduction in their value, which went from over \$125,000,000 to about \$67,000,000 in those same four years? Think of that, will you, and then say that free-trade doesn't hurt the farmer?"

"What makes sheep values good again? You know and I know that it was the protection given wool by the Dingley law. Taking into consideration the raw wool used in our factories and the manufactured wool imported, our flocks will have to get considerably above the 75,000,000 notch before they will produce enough wool to supply our own people, with but about 36,000,000 left from our free trade experiment to start on. Any one can see that it will take some time to get up to that notch, and we can look for continued profit in sheep and wool raising. That is one way in which the McKinley tariff helps the farmer, and I can name other ways." And she went in the house. E. G. PIPP.

### The Only Rational Step.

England protected her manufactures until she led the world as a manufacturing nation. Then came the reign of Cobdenism and free trade. And after fifty years of free trade, England finds American products supplanting English products in foreign markets and even in John Bull's island itself. From the beginning of her commercial life until the present, England has protected in one way or another her shipping interests. Today she leads the world in shipping. She is so far in the lead that she has no rival. In fact, more than half the ocean carrying power of the world is possessed by British ships. These two bits of history are equal to a treatise on economics.

The United States, like England, has protected its home industries. Through protection we have reached the top industrially. We supply almost entirely our home market, a market worth all the markets of the world, and we are crowding other nations out of the markets of the world. The next step, the only logical step, the only rational step, is to put in force a system of protection to our commerce, to protect our shipping as we have protected our industrial interests. We should carry approximately the whole of our imports and at least a part of our exports in American-built ships. Let us do our ocean carrying, as we now supply our own market. After that we can turn our attention to getting our share of the world's carrying trade, as now we are getting possession of the markets of the world.

### Sound Advice.

What would it 3,000,000 of people, 3,000,000 of anticipated colonists, will not fit 75,000,000 of people who are the equal of any other 75,000,000 of people of the world, and, whether you are Republicans or Democrats, every one of you feels an interest in the success of our country. Let it be understood everywhere among you that you will not support anybody--will not give your political support or strength to anybody--who will not undertake to carry the flag of American commerce onto every sea. When you have done that, our country will have taken her proper place. She cannot stand still. She must go ahead or go backward. If the present changes in the Orient bring about the results in China that have been brought about in Japan, you will find a greater development of trade on the Pacific ocean in the next twenty-five years than the world has ever seen in its history. Shall we take part in it with our immerse coast and all its wealth?--From an address of James J. Hill, President of the Great Northern Railroad.

### A Grand Record.

The new tariff law, even under the most unfavorable conditions, has demonstrated its effectiveness in producing revenue. Under normal conditions it is safe to say that results will be obtained of greater magnitude than even its framers anticipated. Taking everything into consideration, the fiscal year 1898 has made a record for itself that fills the breast of every true American citizen with pride, patriotism and security in the country's stability, and attracts the attention of every nation to the greatness of the United States of America.--Wool Record.

### Duty of Manufacturers.

American manufacturers have not deemed it necessary heretofore to build and employ their own ships in order to hold important lines of foreign trade. Other countries have found it necessary to do this and there is no reason to hope that we shall escape the necessity to which others have submitted. They must do as much as the traders of other lands to enlarge their circle of commerce.--Dallas (Tex.) News.

### Quite Annoying.

The Dingley tariff continues to crowd the aisles to the great annoyance of the Democrats in the congregation.--Burlington Hawkeye.



"HOW CAN YOU BE SO INCONSISTENT?"