

SIZES UP NEBRASKA POLITICS

Impartial Correspondent of the Washington Star Gives His View.

PROSPECTS FOR REPUBLICAN SUCCESS

Men and Issues Involved in the Campaign—Free Silver a Dead Issue—Bryan's Prestige as a National Leader in the Balance.

The campaign in Nebraska, as it appears to an observant and impartial correspondent, is clearly set forth in the following letter from Charles M. Pepper, staff correspondent of the Washington Star, under date of Lincoln, September 29. Mr. Pepper writes: "Men and issues are both involved in the Nebraska campaign this year. The outcome will necessarily have some bearing on Mr. Bryan's personal fortunes as a party leader. It will also have a marked national influence on the question of expansion. The alignment of parties with respect to the Nebraska campaign is of importance to the reformers. The populists, or rather the fusionists, for there are yet some democrats in the state to fuse with the populists, are for the Chicago platform, with free silver and everything else. They are, of course, against the trusts and against the Philippine policy of the national administration. The language in which they state their position on this point is somewhat guarded, but Mr. Bryan in his speeches clears away the uncertainty.

"The republicans on their part are also against the trusts to a degree, and are even charged by the fusionists with adopting some of Bryan's ideas. That is not important. The republicans are specifically and aggressively for the gold standard. This is important. They are also aggressively for the president's policy of prosecuting the war in the Philippines until the authority of the United States is fully recognized. Individual differences of opinion about what shall be done after the flag is established cut no figure. The party is genuinely and thoroughly harmonious on the main proposition.

"The election in which the sentiment of Nebraska is to be determined on these national issues is not a matter of minor importance. A judge of the supreme court and two regents of the State university are to be chosen. That is all. Though in a heated contest like the present neither side will admit it, it is a fact that the individual candidates on both tickets are good men, and the state will not suffer through the choice of either. The campaign and its result simply hinge on whether Mr. Bryan still keeps his hold and whether he will be able to make anything of his crusade against imperialism and militarism, so called, as a campaign cry for 1900.

Contest Will Be Close.

"Mingling with the managing politicians of all parties, I have been impressed with their feeling that the contest will be a close one. The state is really close and is fighting ground. It began to slump away from the republicans eight or ten years ago, when the Farmers' alliance had its mushroom growth. Then it became more populist, and the fusion of the democrats with the populists took it away from the republicans, and the state had a populist United States senator and a populist governor. The republicans have been fighting steadily to regain their lost ground, and have been making progress. Last fall they carried the legislature and named a straight-out republican to succeed Senator V. V. Allen. They also cut the fusion majority down so that Governor Poynter and the populist nominees won by a narrow margin. They just missed a complete victory. Now, in several years, the aim of the republicans is to finish the work of last fall and show the country that Nebraska is a republican state for good. Yet they might fail to carry it this fall, and it would still be fighting ground in 1900.

"The republican party organization seems to be in excellent shape. In several years past I have known these Nebraska campaigns and never found the party machinery in such good form as it is now. Three years ago, when the republicans of other states were looking to Nebraska hopefully, the national campaign was weakened because of a rotten state house ring. In several years the republicans were responsible. They managed to keep this knowledge from getting abroad, and the republican national committee was deceived over the prospects. But all this is past. The party organization has been purified and there is no longer a drawback to united and effective work. There is a satisfaction on the part of the republican leaders that the party has taken a definite stand for the gold standard. This feeling is everywhere apparent. Bryan and the fusionists sometimes taunt Senator Thurston and others who were once inclined with free silver, but these taunts have little force. Everybody feels that the party is in better fighting form for the future, since it has no apology to make for its position on the money question.

Free Coinage a Dead Issue.

"Free coinage itself is no longer a live issue in Nebraska, but since the populists keep it in their platform there is a party advantage to the republicans in squarely antagonizing this contention. The lack of free coinage agitation is one of the marked features of the contest. Coin Harvey is traveling over the state preaching his doctrines and Mr. Bryan declares that '16 to 1' is as much the issue as it ever was, only he adds, some attention must be given the new issues of the trusts and expansion which is so early in the canvass to attempt an attack on these by townships or voting precincts, so that an idea may be formed whether there is a real gain which will offset any possible defect.

Populists Are Hopeful.

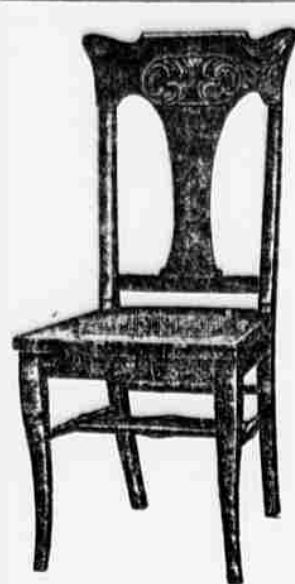
"The populists are also hopeful and confident. They are commonly called fusionists, but in reality the opposition to the republicans in Nebraska is populist. The fusionists keep up a separate organization and name a proportion of the local and state candidates, which are accepted by the populists. But the political identity of the democrats is lost completely. There is also an organization on paper called the silver republicans, which is alleged to be part of the fusion. There is nothing to this except the name, which is kept by the populists in order to make it appear that there is a silver republican party.

"I dropped into the headquarters of the populist state committee to get some ideas of the prospects from their point of view. The chairman assured me that the organization was never in a better condition for a contest. Nebraska, he said, was a popular state by at least 20,000 majority, and that majority would hold good this year. Chairman Edmisten gave the same explanation of the slump last fall that other populists give. It was in substance that the populists played shrewd politics and won the legislature by a still hunt. The populists, he explained, were over-confident and stayed away from the polls to hush their corn and look after other farm duties. But this year they are on their guard. A full vote would be brought out and that would mean a populist victory. One reason for looking for a full vote, he said, was because county officers would be elected this fall and that always secures winning the votes to the polls. The populists have 500 out of the 850 county offices in the state. It is assured that their fight to keep these offices will be more effective than the fight of the republicans to capture them. This raises the old question whether the ins-every fight quite so hard as the out. The populists also claim that Mr. Bryan is making votes among the 'Abe Lincoln republicans' by his talks against expansion.

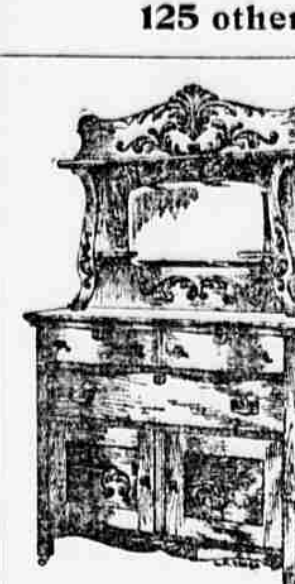
Local Side of the Campaign.

"The campaign naturally has its local side. The republicans are attacking the populist state administration and they find plenty of material for attack. Governor Poynter does not seem to be as good a politician as was Mr. Holcomb, his populist predecessor. The nominees for supreme judge also inject a personal interest into the canvass. The republicans are particularly fortunate in Judge Reese, their candidate. He represents the best element in Nebraska republicanism, and his nomination has toned up the whole organization. He served one term on the bench. He has a consistent anti-

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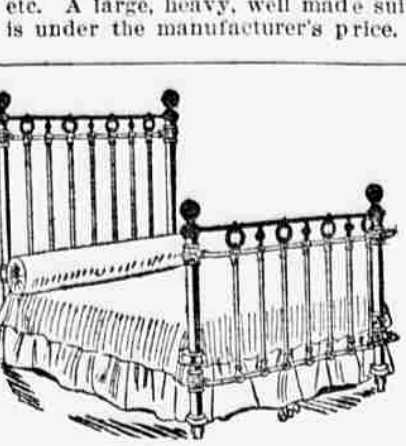
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tion from their own ranks and give them a majority. In Omaha and Lincoln and in the other large towns they promise to do better than they did last fall, when they made marked gains in these localities. As to the populist counties in the western part of the state no certain information can yet be ascertained. The republicans are hopeful that the patriotic sentiment which upholds the national administration so long as there is an enemy in arms against the United States will gather force as the campaign progresses. They will appeal strongly to it. At one time there was some nervousness over the returning soldiers of the First Nebraska. There was also some politics by both the republicans and the populists in the reception of these heroes. The republicans are no longer nervous on this subject. The soldier boys are back in their homes. None of them who went out as republicans have ceased to be republicans, while there are signs that some of them who went out as populists have returned as partisans of the national administration, as far as relates to upholding its authority. This, too, while some of them talk against keeping the islands as American territory after the authority of the United States is established, is a good sign. The populists have been disconcerted because Chaplain Malley, who was with the First Nebraska in the Philippines, is making vigorous speeches in support of the national administration. His influence is not to be despised. It is one of the signs which the republicans think are favorable to their success in November by a good majority.

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"77" Cures Simple and Complicated COLDS From the first flush of Fever to the most dangerous forms of Grip. From the first Chill or Shiver to Headache. From the first Hack or Cough to Bronchitis—threatening the Lungs. From the first Tickle or Dryness of the Throat to Diphtheria. From Cold in the Head to the most violent Influenza or Catarrh. The best dose restores the checked circulation (indicated by chill or shiver), starts the blood coursing through the veins and so "breaks up" the Cold. For sale by all druggists, or sent on receipt of price, 25c and \$1.00. Homeopathic Medicine Co., Cor. William & John Sts., N. Y.

LABOR PROSPERS IN OMAHA Various Crafts Make an Excellent Showing in Their Organizations. CENTRAL UNION NEW DIRECTORY JUST OUT Omaha is a Stronghold of Unionism and the Central Body is Made Up of Representative Craftsmen—Facts and Figures. The International Association of Machinists is one of the strongest and most ably conducted bodies that has a home in Labor Temple. The membership is large, and every member counts a "full hand." This union has frequently taken part in international councils and is known in labor circles from ocean to ocean. It is No. 31 in the list of unions. Meetings are held every second and fourth Friday evenings. The officers are: President, J. H. Craig; vice president, Oscar Bernies; recording secretary, J. McEvoy; financial secretary, Robert Richelieu; treasurer, John Linberg; statistician, George Lewis; conductor, John Hinz; chaplain, William Bretton; inner secretary, John J. Hadfield; outer secretary, H. H. Peckham. The printing pressmen's union has made much in minor circles. This organization encountered struggles, more or less, but the heroic hand kept on with determination that finally removed all obstacles and now the printing pressmen are as firmly established as any other of their co-laborers. The officers are: President, John Thomas Hart; vice president, B. Caremoli; recording and corresponding secretary, James Kerley; financial secretary, Ed M. Birch; treasurer, Frank G. Wallace; organizer, E. A. Willis; sergeant-at-arms, Charles Gustavson. The broom makers organized in July of the present year, with the following officers: President, John Stagnier; vice president, J. Pelican; treasurer, A. J. James; recording and corresponding secretary, A. J. James. The fact that electricity has come into such common use and is applied in the industrial world in so many different ways, makes the body of electrical workers a most important lot. The electrical workers of Omaha are thoroughly organized. The membership includes representative mechanical workers and that, together with the importance of their calling, accounts for the strength of their union. They are organized in almost every city of the union, and nowhere is there an electrical organization surpassing that of Omaha so far as general attributes go. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening. The Amalgamated Association of Woodworkers meets every Monday evening in Labor Temple, and is a growing union. It was organized in March of the present year. The leather workers on horse goods have a sound organization. Their officers are: President, G. B. Dunn; vice president, Har-