## CAMPAIGN IN SECOND NEBRASKA DISTRI

Republican Club.

MERCER AND HIS BACKERS ARRAIGNED

Methods of the Men Who Support the Present Congressman from the Second Nebraska District Exposed.

Speech of Edward Rosewater Tuesday, May 6, before the Eighth Ward Republican

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Republicans: We are now again on the eve of a mementous political campaign-a campaign in which the destinies of the republican party of Nebraska will be determined by the ac- is absolutely unfounded. I can hardly even tion of the individual members and the character of the standard-bearers of the of the lawless things that he did, but the grand organization that brought Nebraska into the union among the sisterhood of

ment, for him to make a satisfactory Your chairman has announced that this meeting was called for the discussion of regret this as much as anybody, but the congressional candidates. It was not my intention to confine the scope of this discussion to the congressional campaign. after all the lessons that we have had, and Before entering upon that part of the program I desire to present a few reasons why republicans of Douglas county should the law, it is his duty to step out and let participate actively in the preliminary work of the impending campaign.

The state convention has been called by the state committee to meet in Lincoln June 18, and I presume the county committee will, within the next ten days, meet to fix the time for holding the primaries. Whether these primary elections are to be held under the old system of selecting delegates to the state convention by a county convention, or whether these delegates are to be chosen by direct election by the so-called "Crawford county system," is in the main immaterial. The great question republicans must face is whether they will present a state ticket to the suffrages of the people, made up of the ablest mer, that can be selected from the best element of the republican party, or whether they will court disaster by nominating candidates who have to be applogized for and defended. Bigger Men Needed for Leaders.

It is as amazing as it is deplorable that the men who have been honored with leadership and high position in recent years are no match in point of intellect, moral force and integrity to the leaders and condidates of perritorial days. That fact was forcibly called to my mind recently while attending the funeral of J. Sterling Mor-

ton, whr. was associated with a galaxy of intel actual giants in the upbuilding of this gre & commonwealth. It is deplorable ind'ed that some of the ablest and best men within the ranks of the republican party do not in late years participate actively in our politics, or have been crowded to the rear because the idea prevails that anybody who has ambition can aspire to a state office, even though he is notoriously incompetent, ignorant or disreputable, and that anyhody can go to congress, even it he has not the ability to fill a position of city councilman. We remember that in 1891 a well-digger, who had previously scarcely touched a law book, was a candidate for supreme judge on the fusion ticket of this state, and was only prevented from being elected to the highest judicial tribunal of Nebraska by the patriotism and pride of the rank and file of democrats and

the supreme bench. In the present campaign we must endeavor first and foremost to select as our peatedly charged that The Omaha Bee had standard-bearer a man broad enough to be viciously opposed the nomination and elecchief executive of a great commonwealth, tion of David H. Mercer to congress that boasts nearly 1,200,000 population. It he was a candidate the first time. The has been stated semi-officially that William truth is that The Bee did vigorously op-Jennings Bryan will not be a candidate for pose the nomination of Mr. Mercer, but it governor in the year 1902. I do not, however, consider it prudent for the republiess party to make its nomination for governor with the idea that Bryan will not be his opponent. Bryan may be forced to run, even against his own wish and private He is about the only democrat who could command the united support of all of the elements of opposition to the

populists, who did not went to degrade

republican party. No Defensive Campaign.

The republicans must nominate a man capable of keeping with any candidate the fusion reformers may fally under. A man whose record affords a guarantee of unimpeachable integrity and executive ability of the highest order. It is gratifying indeed that we are not compelled to enter this campeign in defense of the violation of one of the declarations of the last republicar state convention. That convention eraphatically declared against condoning subezziement, and we will not be compelled, thank God, to stand up in the next campaign to defend it. (Applause.)

Now, Douglas county republicans have little or no show for securing a nomination for one of their number to head the republican ticket. I have lived here nearly thirty-nine years and do not remember a single instance when a Douglas county republican was nominated for the position of governor, but we will probably have the opportunity to secure the nomination of some competent and able man for the position of lieutenant governor, or possibly for state treasurer. I presume there will be no difficulty in finding men willing to but we should be very particular to nominate only such a man for lieutenant governor as would be able to fill the posttion of governor creditably for himself and the party.

Fourteen years ago Benjamin Harrison carried Nebraska by about 28,000 majority. and for nearly twenty years preceding that campaign every nomination in a republican state convention was equivalent to an election. Two years later, in 1890, James E. Boyd was elected governor of Nebraska and from that time on Nebraska has continued to be a debatable state.

Causes of Party Defeat.

It was not merely the folly of submitting prohibition that placed the republican party jeopardy. It was the misconduct of men it had placed in positions of trust. It was the peculation and jobbery that prevailed in the statehouse for years by which an exasperated people were impelled to repudiate the republican party at the polls and

"Let the GOLD DUST twins do your work."



GOLD DUST

impeached three state officers in 1893 and centered all of my energy to carry the Speech of E. Rosewater to the Eighth Ward if these men had been pronounced guilty state for Benjamin Harrison, and notwithby the full court instead of being let loose standing the fact that there was 20,000 mahalf vindicated with a reprimand we would jority against us, the total vote gave Harhave no Bartleys and none of the costly rison electors 4,300 plurality and kept the and disgraceful experiences that have over- state in the republican column. (Applause.) then us since that time. Let us see to it We not only carried the state for Harrison, that It does not happen sgain by placing but we elected Governor Crounse and the men in office so constituted that a bribe entire republican state ticket. Mr. Mercer no matter how targe will be spurned, and also was elected.

Importance of Coming Contest.

It is not my purpose to indicate what

candidate or candidates Douglas county

should support for any particular office,

but I do not want to be a party to a sham

or masquerade. When we present a can-

didate he must be a man who enjoys pop-

ular confidence and respect, and must have

our earnest support. If we are going to

Lincoln with a candidate for governor we

ought to go there with a determination

that he should be nominated. If we put

up a man simply to give him a boost and

some free advertising, with no intention

to make him governor, we ought never to

put him forward as our candidate. It is not

honest and it is not honorable. We have

done such things heretofore, but it was

always my conviction that it was not good

You are doubtless aware that the last

legislature left a great deal of important

work undone, and that its work was not

opinion not only of republicans, but of

all classes of our citizens. It was the duty

of the last legislature to have reappor-

tioned the state in the legislative and

congressional districts. It absolutely failed

to do so by reason of the pressure by

agencies that are so well known. The

failure to give us the apportionment the

constitution required has robbed this county

coming legislature, and in the legislatures

that will be for the next five years, and

We denounced the democratic party for

failing to reapportion the state for the

census of 1890 and we have repeated the

criminal folly that they perpetrated. While

it remains for the future to show whether

or not it would have been advantageous

Issue of Congressional Election.

Now, let me pass to another subject-one

n which you perhaps have a more live in-

terest-and that is the question of who is

to represent this district in the next con-

You all remember that it has been re-

did not oppose his election after he had

been nominated. Every republican has a

right to oppose the nomination of any

candidate, and it is his duty to exercise

that right to the fullest extent. (Applause.)

Now let me read to you two editorials that

appeared in The Bee prior to the nomina-

tion of Mercer for the first term, in 1892,

which embodied the reasons for this oppo-

sition. On September 14, 1892, the follow-

ing editorial appeared under the head,

Mercer's Original Nomination.

A majority of the delegates che

Mercer's Candidacy:"

On September 20, just before the nomina-

For two years Dave Mercer has used his position as chairman of the county committee to lay his pipes and pack the caucuses and conventions. By the help of certain federal officials, who ought to be interested in building up the party instead of wrecking it, he has carried his point. If the convention that meets today is reckless enough to nominate Mercer for congress it must take the responsibility.

Bee's Support of Mercer.

After the convention two or three short

'Why He is Not Available:"

This is the consensus of

politics nor good faith.

satisfactory.

possibly for ten.

gress.

for republicans to do so,

(Applause.)

that men who accept office will regard it At the end of his first term The Bee enas a public trust. formed his renomination for a second term in the following editorial on August 21. Right here let me say that there is no man in the statehouse for whom I enter-1894, under the heading, "A High Compiltained a higher regard than I did for Mr. ment:"

Congressman D. H. Mercer has received a flattering compilment at the hands of the republicans of this district. Without a dissenting vote the convention of the Second congressional district vote him a renomination for the position he has filled during the past two years. With this action The Bee has no fault to find. Mr. Mercer has made a very creditable and efficient representative and in accord with its well known policy. The Bee has not hesitated to give him credit whenever credit was due.

Mr. Mercer has agreeably disappointed those who had no confidence in his ability and fitness to represent the state in the national legislature. His record has been consistent and satisfactory to all classes of republicans, and his constituency, regardless of party, concur in the opinion that he has done as well in promoting their interests during his first eighteen months in congress as any man could have done under like conditions. This we cheerfully certify without ever receiving, asking or expecting any favors at the hands of Mr. Mercer. If he shall do as well in the future as he has in the past he will have no reason for complaint of not being appreciated or duly credited with whatever good services he may render. We had always been personal friends and I had the most implicit confidence in him. The idea has gone forth that I have some personal grievance and that the publicity given to his conduct was inspired by some motive of revenge. This today convince myself that he was aware record is there. The transactions charged up to him make it impossible, in my judgfense before the people of this state. I republican party must stand for the strictest integrity in the office of state treasurer if the treasurer cannot afford to fill that office honestly, according to the spirit of someone fill it who will abide by the law.

Mercer and the Exposition.

In 1896, when Mr. Mercer had served two terms, we had reached a very critical stage in the affairs of Omaha. We had assumed the responsibility for a great enterprise, the Transmississippi exposition, and the fact that Mr. Mercer occupied a position of prominence in the committee on public buildings, in my judgment and

in the judgment of the great majority of business men of Omaha, necessitated the re-election of Mercer. To bring this about the most strenuous efforts were made by myself and The Bee, as you may note from the following editorial that appeared in The Bee of July 5 on behalf of Mercer, entitled, "An Appeal to Workingmen:

The workingmen of Omaha have more at stake in the renomination of Congressman Mercer than any other class of our citizens. The most essential thing for workingmen is employment. If Mercer goes back to Washington next winter with his commission renewed for another term he will be in position to command support for liberal appropriations for all public works now under way or projected in this city and vicinity. He will be in position to secure all the funds necessary for completing the postoffice building and he will have little difficulty in securing an increase from \$200,000 to \$500,000 for the Transmississippl exposition. With a renewed commission Mercer will be chairman of the committee on public buildings and that means a great deal, not only for workingmen in Omaha, but for workingmen in every town where a federal building is to be located. of at least three or four members in the

Rallied in by The Bec.

Following this editorial came a doubleleaded appeal just before the primaries, saying, "Omaha Must Stand By Omaha:"

No man ever can succeed who does not stand up for himself. This is equally true of cities. No city has ever grown great and prospered that has lowered its flag and turned its back upon its founders or its champions. In the contest between Congressman Mercer and his opponents the issue is squarely presented whether Omaha will stand up for herself or go back on herself. Never before has any political contest involved so much for the future of Omaha as does the renomination of Mercer. Personal likes and dislikes, political factions and petty feuds all sink into insignificance before the one supreme issue, whether Omaha will deliberately strike a staggering blow at a project that is most vital to her upbuilding and a revival of business activity by gratifying the ambitions of men who are notoriously incapable of being of any use in congress at the saying, "Omaha Must Stand By Omaha:" we are not obliged to reapportion congress, business activity by gratifying the ambitions of men who are notoriously incapable of being of any use in congress at the most critical time for the Transmississippi exposition. Every rational man must realize that the rejection of Mercer in the face of the colossal work he has done for this city and South Omaha during the last two sessions would be interpreted at Washington as a declaration that Omaha does not appreciate the favors granted as a concession to her indefatigable representative, and therefore is entitled to no further consideration by congress.

In behalf of Omaha, for which The Bee has always stood and in which its future is bound up perpetually, we call upon every citizen who has a vote to cast at the republican primaries to stand up for Omaha by casting his vote for the Mercer delegates. We call upon citizens who have no vote to give to exert all their influence with those who have. We call upon business men and property owners who have everything at stake to devote their time for half a day to the redemption of Omaha from business depression.

Mr. Mercer is a poor man. His resources have been drained by a cammaign which it.

'Why He is Not Available:'

The backers of Mr. Dave Mercer had better bottle their wrath. This is not a question of good fellowship, personal friendship or political hostility.

The editor of The Bee testified under oath before the United States Pacific Railway commission concerning the corruption and debauchery of the legislative lobby. He testified among other things that Dave Mercer was, with others, a member of the oliroom lobby at Lincoln. That fact was corroborated by other witnesses, notably William F. Gurley and John M. Thurston. His and their testimony has been published by the United States and is accessible to the public and will be within reach of the candidates for congress on the opposite side.

In the face of such evidence the editor of The Bee cannot stuitify himself or this paper by endorsing Mr. Mercer for congress, even if he were otherwise fitted for the position or entitled to such a high place at the hands of the party.

It has been the boast of the republicans in the present campaign that the party has presented to the people candidates whose records are untainted. It cannot and it should not recede from this high purpose. We cannot hope to command success this year unless we deserve it by presenting clean and capable men for the suffrages of the people. In taking that position the editor of The Bee is not assuming to dictate who shall be honored, but he simply discharges a disagreeable duty in pointing positions are not available.

Mercer's Original Nomination. for hair a day to the redemption of Omaha from business depression.

Mr. Mercer is a poor man. His resources have been drained by a campaign which by rights ought to have been fought for him by Omaha without a penny of expense. It would only be an exhibition of appreciation of this man's service, which no amount of money could have duplicated, that those who have carriages and vehicles place them at his disposal for the primary election for half a day.

Our Absentee Representative.

These articles certainly show that Mr. Mercer was under some obligations to The Bee and received a very cordial and very energetic backing through that medium Nobody can truthfully charge that after Mr. Mercer's first term and up to a recent period he has not had the earnest zealous support of The Bee with all the influence that it could exert, and that includes the last election as well as the second, third and fourth elections.

In 1898 when he had already served three terms my efforts in his behalf were renewed with the same earnest vigor and his opponents found to their sorrow that the appeals of The Bee to the business man and to the working man had a very decided effect, so Mr. Mercer certainly had no grievance and had no right to have any up to the last time he was elected, and, tion, this article appeared, headed, "Dave in fact, up to the present time.

After he had served four terms his con-A majority of the delegates chosen by the republican convention of Douglas county have expressed their preference for Dave Mercer as the candidate for congress in this district. What claim has Dave Mercer upon the people or party for a seat in congress? His career in Omaha began in the Union Pacific headquarters as f third-rate clerk, from which he was promoted to the railroad oilroom lobby. The work of this lobby was to debauch and corrupt the legislature in the voting down of measures in the interests of the people and promoting the interest of the corporations and jobbers. The means used to bring about this end were cards, ilquor and lewd women. Once in the meshes of the oilroom lobby the people's representatives became the pilant tools and creatures of their seductions.

This is the only line of business which Dave Mercer has pursued with some degree of success. His efforts at the practice of law were a flat failure. The position he holds as deputy marshal and bailiff can hardly be considered as the proper stepping stone for the national legislature.

And what claim has Dave Mercer upon the party for services. tinuance became a serious question. visiting statesman. He had absented himself from Omaha from year to year except when he came up for re-election. For twenty out of twenty-four months Mr. Blackburn was the only medium through whom Mercer could be reached, although during the periodic congressional campaigns his constituents were showered with numberless letters and packages of garden seeds. Year by year the workers became more convinced that he was not in touch with them. They began to complain, and as I thought justly, that he never took any interest except in himself; that campaign after campaign was fought here on county and state tickets, and Mr. Mercer was never on hand; and he furtherislature.

And what claim has Dave Mercer upon the party for services as a political worker? As chairman of the city committee that conducted the campaign three years ago he permitted the campaign funds to go into the hands of treacherous and thieving members of the committee who had formed a conspiracy to defeat the head of the ticket for democratic boodle instead of warning the candidate he deliberately closed his ears and eyes and isd the ticket to slaughter. The result was the election of Cushing and the formation of the boodle combine in the council. more, systematically repudiated his campoign assessments, and did not contribute even to his own campaign, as every other man occupying such a lucrative position is

expected to do. Facts About the Dinner.

In an article recently published Mr. Blackturn charged that I invited myself to 1900, and sought his assistance in my senatorial campaign. Well, I never invited ways been able to pay for my dinners, or go without them. I have always been able accepted an invitation from Mercer to dine with him and spent a pleasant afternoon. I do not comprehend why he should have retailed the story of my visit to Blackburn as a wonderful event, or why he should instnuate I had called there for equibs appeared, and there was nothing the purpose of promoting my political infurther against Mr. Mercer in The Bee. We terest.

senatorial campaign, and he cannot truthperity and the interest of the state, but | ten. Schulz, this city or to any of its citizens.

That famous dinner amounted to nothing except that an hour or two previous I reeived a telegram from Omaha announcing that Mr Blackburn had called a very pe ultar endless chain system of Craw ford primary for the congressional nominaion, in which all the counties and all the precincts in the three countles were to be tied together on one string, and the delegates to be all voted for in Sarpy, Washington and Douglas counties on one ticket. It struck me that this would precipitate factional fight and I was very antiqua to avoid a factional fight in 1990. I was so possibly have deceived any republican voter. anxious to see Nebraska redeemed from populism that I was willing to make any ancrifice.

Community of Interests Plan.

The only thing that happened on that memorable occasion was that I asked Mr. Mercer to have Blackburn's call revoked, or revised, as there was really no serious opposition to Mercer. I had gone into no compact with anybody to nominate any other man and, in fact, did not encourage anybody to be a candidate, although I then thought that Mr. Mercer with four terms had about all that he was entitled to. In fact, that any man with ordinary ambition would have dared to asked for. (Applause).

After my return to Omaha we entered nto what might be called a "Community of Interest Agreement," in the interest of party harmony. To show that I was disposed in favor of harmony, I made the overtures and went to the office of John L Webster, and there met Mr. Gurley and other friends of Mercer. After several conferences we agreed substantially upon a licans of Douglas county, and to the redelegation to the state convention and upon the members that were to represent this district in the national convention that nominated William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, (Applause.)

A few days thereafter Mr. Blackburn called upon me with a paper, or rather an gressional convention, and requested me to head it. I signed that paper and my signature brought all of my friends into line. John L. Webster joined with me and brought his friends, and then we made it unanimous. If Mercer had not the manbood to appreciate that sort of treatment he has not a particle of manhood in him. feel sure that any other man would have appreciated it.

Silver Platter Nomination.

His nomination did not cost him a penny. He had put up a little scheme, or rather his understudy, to make every candidate pay \$300 to Blackburn, the chairman of the congressional committee, who carried all the other members in his pocket. Whether Mercer was to have paid \$300 or not I cannot tell, I cannot guess, but presume he would have paid it. Whether the money would have been paid out or refunded is another question. At any rate, he got his nomination without costing him a cent.

At that time he had drawn \$40,000 from the United States government. Just think of it, a man who never earned more than \$75 a month at any honest calling had earned in eight years \$40,000 and the perquisites. (Laughter).

We went into the great campaign of 1900, and I went into it in good faith. It is a matter of record that the call for the convention that nominated the delegates to the congressional convention made no mention of the fact that there was to be a congressman nominated. That defect in the call made the nomination of David H. Mercer worthless.

Judge Baker, who was anxious to contest Mercer's nomination, called upon me both before and after Mercer had been nominated and said the nomination would amount to nothing. He proposed to go into the courts and have it set aside and make Mercer run as a petition nominee, if he wanted to. I remonstrated against such a proceeding and succeeded in persuading Baker to drop it. I did not know until within the last ten days that the papers to make that contest were all made out by Mr. Baldrige. He tells me that he had the papers in his hands all prepared to go into court, and Mercer would have been thrown out if they had been filed. It was only at my instance that Mr. Mercer was retained as regular nominee on the ticket, and I fought his battle out and kept these people from acting. (Applause).

In Good Faith with Mercer.

Now, then, Mr. Mercer certainly could not interpret my conduct as malicious, dishonest, treacherous, or anything of the kind. I was in good faith and remained in good faith until the end. Wherever there was a campaign meeting in this county I advocated Mercer just as much as I advocated the national, state and legislative tickets. Just before the campaign closed there was a meeting of German-Americans at Turner hall. We sat side by side there in a great gathering that was assembled in my interest, and not for Mr. Mercer. I appealed to the German-Americans to support Mr. Mercer, and pledged if elected to the senate to work hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder with our energetic representative for every measure that would promote the prosperity of Omaha. The great body of the people that was assembled in the hall gave Mr. Mercer an ovation, and doubtless many of them supported him because of the pledges that I made for him and the endorsements that I gave him. But strange as it may seem, during all that campaign Mercer never went near the republican county commitbegan to dawn upon the community that tee; he never was in touch with it. He Mr. Mercer was what might be called a refused to pay his campaign assessment and while the committee and others who had collected money to carry on the campaign were paying for halls, fireworks, brass bands, carriages, posters and other incidentals to the campaign, he did not contribute a penny. He did not take the campaign managers

into his confidence to tell us who his workers were, where they were located, as any other candidate would have done without asking, and up to the time of the election, while I kept him fully informed of our plans and operations I never could get any information from him, nor from Mr. Blackburn, who was the chairman of his congressional committee. When the day of election came I went down to South Omaha with those terrible sample ballots that Mr. Mercer pretends were gotten up to assist his opponent.

Those Terrible Sample Ballots

I found men down there, democrats, hired by Mercer, but Mercer was the only candidate they were willing to work for. And now a word about those ballots. They dinner with Mr. Mercer in the spring of were not gotten up surreptitiously; they were not designed to impose on anybody they were headed independent-democratic myself to dinner with anyone. I have al- sample ballots, and were gotten up for that class of democrats who were disposed to vote part of the republican ticket. These to earn a living without sponging, but I tickets were straight democratic for president, but some of them were marked for Dietrich, some were marked for Mercer and most of them were marked for the republican candidates for the legislature.

The first batch of these sample ballots was printed blank and were marked by clerks in the bureau I had organized under the national committee, as Mr. Haynes, were in the presidential year, 1892, and I never asked Mercer to help me in the who is now secretary to Senator Millard,

fully charge that I ever invoked his as- Mercer and marked without Mercer prosistance in anything except what was in miscuously, because we intended they the interest of Omaha. (Applause.) I should be used where they could to the have time and again, of course, induced best advantage. There was nothing imhim to introduce and support certain meas- proper in that. On election day a lot of ures, and even succeeded in getting him these ballots were taken to South Omaha | presidential elector to lesert the candidate to do some things I knew to be for the in a back, occupied by Llewellyn, Collins promotion of Omaha's growth and pros- and myself. They were exhibited to Trou-Wilcox and other South never have I asked him to do anything Omaha republicans, and some were disthat would be damaging or detrimental to tributed. But about 8,000 of these ballots are still in my office in the original packages, and will be exhibited in due course of time, to show up the imposture by which Mercer has tried to excuse his treacherous course.

> lamb he chraged him with roiling the water, and that is the way these people have done. Within forty-eight hours after the election Mercer and his benchmen pretended that they had found proof that I had tried to defeat Mercer, and yet Mercer knew that these ballots were to go into the hands of democrats only, and could not In a recent article, in which I also trace Mr. Blackburn, he said that about 150 votes were lost to Mr. Mercer in South Omaha by these tickets. What an impudent fake. How could Mercer lose votes through democratic ballots, circulated among democrats? If the republicans had voted these tickets he might have lost some votes, but these tickets were democratic sample ballots and he certainly could not have sustaised any loss among democrats who voted for Howard. The charge is almost too absurd to require contradiction. It was trumped up by Mercer in order that he might find some justification for his own treachery in trying to defeat the republican legislative ticket and trying to prevent the election of two republican United States senators. (Applause.) That was his purpose, and I can prove it by credible witnesses.

Mercer's Unfounded Charges. Now let us examine the situation and

the relation of Mr. Mercer to the repubpublicans of the district and state. He was nominated in good faith, and supported in good faith, and received the largest vote he ever received in the district not the slightest defection anywhere. If I had been disposed to waylay him and help myself; if I had given the tip to agreement, to support Mercer at the con- the democrats that they could throw him, as they could have done by appealing to the supreme court to rule him off the republican ticket, and make him a petition candidate, I could have had all the help wanted for the republican legislative ticket from the democrats. Through that entire campaign I never approached a man connected with Edgar Howard, much less Howard himself, and he never dreamed of that-not until long after election. (Ap-

Mr. Mercer had no ground whatever for complaint and he understood very well his obligation both to the paper that I edit, to In the summer of 1899, after Thomas B. myself and to the republicans of this city, county and district. What were these obligations? This is a government of majorities, and when the will of the majority to me by the Chicago Tribune, in about is expressed it is to be respected, and any these words: "Are you in favor of man who seeks to overthrow the expressed will of the majority is a political anarchist.

Verdict of the People

It was known to all men that the senatorial contest was squarely between myself and John L. Webster. Every sample ballot at the primary election of 1900 had either my name printed at the head or that of John L. Webster. Mr. Mercer was thought of as a candidate for the United States senate. When that fight was over and the republicans of the county by a most decisive majority declared in my favor Mr. Webster, be it said to his honor, accepted the situation and abided the re-

But that was not all. When the election choice for United States senator. Under the constitution of Nebraska every citizen of Mercer being a candidate?" has a right to express that choice on his are chosen that are to elect United States wants to be chairman of his old commitsenators. Now, then, the choice of the people war expressed through the ballot at that election. In this county alone 9,400 son, then came Wisconsin, then came official returns, but there were at least 600 or 700 not counted for me. I know that the votes of this county.

In the district nearly 11,000 all told were cast for me. A majority of the republican vote of Washington county was cast for comes." In the meantime Mercer was non me, and a majority of the republican vote est. You could get no trace of him. He of Sarpy county was cast for me. As a had not been seen in Nebraska for months choice for United States senator Mr. Mercer was not thought of in this district. The official canvass of the state shows that only 15 votes were cast in the whole state of Nebraska for David H. Mercer-not one of those was cast in the counties of Douglas. Sarpy and Washington-not one. (Applause.)

Mercer's Inexcusable Treachery, And yet Mercer had the audacity twentyfour hours after the election to undertake to overthrow the popular will expressed through the ballot box by urging those who had been elected to violate their sacred obligations to their constituents, and to betray the trust confided in them by the people who had elected them. What would be thought of a man who would approach a sense. I have been on the ground floor presidential elector and ask him to violate his instructions and pledges implied through | been for Henderson all of the time." Merthe expressed will of the majority at the ballot box?

You vote for president nearly in the same manner that you express a choice for United States senator. You did not vote for Mc-Kinley, or Bryan, you voted for the presidential electors, and they were in honor bound to vote for the candidates for president and vice president nominated by their party. In this instance the party did not

could testify, that they were marked with | nominate a candidate for senator, but the people had nominated him

Mercer's attempt to subvert the will of the people was, in my judgment at least, as great a crime against the people as would have been his attempt to persuade a of his party. That was precisely what he did. He did not wait until the members of the legislature had assembled and en deavored to discharge their duty. He did not wait until those members had registered their votes in accordance with the instructions of the people, so that they could at least excuse themselves for the betraval of their trusts. But he approached them and had them approached and worked upon be fore that legislature ever met and before When the wolf wanted to swallow the one senatorial ballot had been cast

Carries Tales to Washington,

Before starting for Washington be gave out cold in Omaha that he had not de cided to be a candidate, although a very great number of people were urging him to become a candidate. But when he reached Washington-in order to excuse his own despicable treason to the people of his own district-he made out that I had endeavored to defeat William McKinley and parof the republican ticket in my personal interest. But he found little credence at Washington. I sent him a scathing letter, and mailed a copy of it to the speaker of the house and to Senator Hanna. And the speaker wrote this in reply: "I regret that you have so much discord in Nebraska, but I feel sure that sometimes it is well to use the olive branch and sometimes the ham-(Laughter.) This is precisely what David B. Henderson wrote. I did not have to explain to President McKinley that I had been loval to the party. He understood it well enough and at the last interview I had with him he complimented me highly on my course. Of course, it was all nonsense, because I had already stepped out and am out for good-but he said, "You will get there yet. You made a poble fight out in Nebraska; you carried the state; you ought to have been elected." That is precisely what he said to me. (Applause.)

Now, let me review Mercer's senatorial campaign. He gave it out in Washington that he was being flooded with letters from members of the legislature asking him to become a candidate. There is not one solitary letter of that kind in existence. When the legislature met he received on lonesome vote, on complimentary day, and that was given as a joke. The man who voted for him would not vote for him in joint convention. A great many scattered on complimentary day. I am not sure but Judge Julius Cooley was among those honored. But in the seventy-two days that the legislature was in session, voting from day to day, no body voted for David H. Mercer. And yet Mercer claimed at Washington that he was the choice of a large portion of the legislature.

Mercer's Play for Speakership. To show what little faith can be placed in him and what little honor he possesses: Reed had resigned from congress, it became apparent that a new speaker would have to be elected. A telegram was sent western man for speaker of the house, and would you favor the election of Mr. Hopkins of Illinois?" And I responded: am in favor of a western man for speaker, but my preference is for David B. Henderson, believing him to be the most capable and the most worthy man now sitting in congress representing the western

states." (Applause.) That was before Henderson had announced himself. I had already supported Henderson when Connell was in congress. Within three days after Henderson nounced himself, which was a few days later, our Washington correspondent announced that Dave Mercer was going to be

a candidate for speaker. The idea of Merfor speaker was were given the privilege to express their Presently I received a letter from Henderson and he said: "Well, what do you think I wrote him: "I do not think he means it; I do ballot, when members of the legislature not think he is serious, but he simply tee." Well, the fight went on, and here was Ohio pronouncing for Dave Henderand some odd were credited to me on the Illinois, and then came Massachusetts, but Nebraska was still holding back. I finally wired down to Burkett: because I was present at the canvass of does Nebraska stand?" and Burkett replied: "I am for Henderson. I am an Iowa man, but I made an agreement with Mercer not to go to anybody until he eet. You could get no trace of him. He and no one knew where to find him.

Case of Unexampled Brass.

Finally I received a telegram from Henderson saying: "Where does Nebraska stand?", And I wired him: "Nebraska will stand with Iowa. Nebraska is for Hender-son for speaker." I took the liberty to do that because I did not want Nebraska placed in a false light. When Mercer finally turned up I said to him: "I have taken the liberty of assuring Henderson that you were for him. It would have been shameful with Ohio, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts in favor of Henderson for Nebrasks to hold back. You could not afford to stay "Why," said he, "that is all nonout." with Henderson all of the time. I have cer evidently did not suspect that I had in my drawer a letter, received only three days previous, in which Henderson said: "I depend on you to look after Mercer. (Laughter.) I did not say to Mercer you are a blank falsifier, because that would been disagreeably truthful. But 1 thought it disgraceful for a man to prevari-

(Continued on Ninth Page.)



Oceans of Hair!

Long, flowing tresses! Rich and heavy braids! Beauty, splendor, elegance! Ayer's Hair Vigor makes the hair grow. It always restores color to gray hair, stops falling of the hair, keeps the scalp clean and healthy. "I have tried many kinds of hair preparations, but none of them will restore

natural color to gray hair equal to Ayer's Hair Vigor."

Mrs. M. J. MARCUM, Sumner, Miss. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Ma A BOSTON LADY

Is Marvelously Restored to Perfect Health.

Paine's Celery Compound

Was Her Deliverer from Nervous Prostration, Insomnia, Mental Depression and Weakness of Her Digestive Organism.

Special Message of Comfort for Sick and Despondent Women.

Mrs. F. L. Bernhardt, 382 Newbury St. Boston, Mass, found herself in an extremly perilous condition of health after a surgleal operation. Her touching story, written for the benefit of other aufferers, is as follows:

"It is with a feeling of extreme gratitude and thankfulness and a desire to benefit others, that I write out my experience in the use of Prof. Edward E. wonderful preparation called Phelpa' Paine's Celery Compound. Owing to a fall from a horse several years ago I became a nervous invalid, and last year I entered a hospital where I was operated upon by a

famous New York surgeon. "The surgical operation was successful, but nervous prostration followed. A summer in Newport with the best medical attendance failed to restore my nerves to their normal condition. I was absolutely unable to digest any solid food, and this weak condition of my digestive organs, combined with incomnia, caused the deepest depression. A constant tenderness and soreness in the region of my stomach with a dull headache and extreme weakness, created a feeling of helpleasness from

which I was unable to rise "It was in the melancholy frame of mind that I chanced to meet a Boston lawyer who said to me, 'I was in almost the condition that you are now in, and after spending hundreds of dollars without receiving any benefit, I was induced by a friend to give Paine's Celery Compound a trial, which I did, and it cured me completely, when everything else had falled." "I was rather skeptical about trying a

patent medicine, but I ordered a bottle from my druggist and began to take it according to directions. Much to my surprise I slept soundly at night, and did not wake in the morning with the usual dull headache. Then, too, I developed an appetite for solid food, and soon I was able to digest a solid dinner without any unpleasant sensations. I am now completely restored to health after about two months' use of the Compound. "Sympathining with all who may be suf-

fering as I did. I take this method of reaching strangers, after writing personal letters to my particular friends."

DIAMOND DYES—The ouly pure and una-dulterated. Never croc . Never fade.

## Good enough for anybody! ALL HAVANA FILLER



FLORODORA BANDS are of same value as tags from STAR, HORSE SHOE! SPEARHEAD. STANDARD NAVY. OLD PEACH & HONEY and J. T. Tobacco.

MANY OF THE BEAUTIFUL HALF TONE GUTS USED IN

THE ILLUSTRATED BEE from time to time are for sale at the

publication office-all in good condition-low prices. Those suffering from weak nesses which sap the pleasures of life should-take a dollar bot tle of Juven Pills. One bottle

will tell a story of marvelous results and create profound wonder. This medicine has

more rejuvenating, vitalizing force than has ever been offered. Sent by mail in plain package only (u receipt of this adv. and \$1, 16 This is 35 worth of medicine for one dollar. Made by its originators C. I. Hood Co., proprietors Hood's Sarsanarilla, Lowell, Mass

Deputy State Vete Food Inspect

H. L. RAMACCIOTTI, D. V. S CITY VETERINARIAN