CANDIDACY OF DAVID HENRY

Full Stenographic Report of the Discussion Between Edward Rosewater and William F. Gurley at the Creighton Orpheum Theater, Thursday Evening, May 29, 1902.

Chairman R. W. Richardson—Ladies and Gentlemen: Under the rules governing this discussion, as agreed to by the respective parties. Mr. Rosewater will open the debate with twenty minutes: ime; Mr. Gurley follows with twenty minutes: Mr. Rosewater then has fifteen minutes, Mr. Gurley follows in fifteen; they alternate then twice, with ten minutes each, and then alternate four times at five minutes each, thus consuming one hour and a quarter each. The time for each will be called promptly. I am requested to ask the friends of the respective parties, please not to make interruptions, because it takes the

to make interruptions, because it takes the time from the speakers' proportion just to that extent.

Ladies and gentlemen, the gentleman for whom I officiate this evening needs no introduction. He is well known to you all and is, indeed, at this day, a national character. He is a veteran in forensic debate, medium in stature, but a giant in intellect. He fights in the open and wins by the force of logical facts. I now have the honor of presenting to you the Honorable Edward Rosewater. (Applause.)

presenting to you the Honorable Edward Rosewater. (Applause.)

MR. ROSEWATER.

Mr. Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen:
For this cordial and enthusiastic greeting I extend to you my most heartfelt thanks.

At the very outset I must ask your very generous indulgence with my infirmities. I am painfully conscious of the fact that I am entering the lists of debate with a man richly endowed with the rare gifts of eloquence, wit and superb manhood. He is a man who can with his beaming countemance and seductive smiles entrance the ladies and make their hearts fluiter.

In they were introduced after them generally was, and looked after them generally made up my mind what the intensition of the bill was.

Q.—What were the bills? A.—There were quite a number of them; I could not state specifically any particular bill.

Q.—Can you name any one of them? A.—I don't know what a other parties were doing there. I know what I was doing. There were a great many people down at Lincoln.

Q.—Do you know of anybody else working with you in connection with the interests of the Union Pacific Railway company? A.—I was working alone so far as I was concerned.

Q.—What kind of work did you de? A.—I was concerned. (Laughter.) He is a man who can by his fervent appeal make a murder jury ory and the judge on the criminal beach smile whenever he indulges in his rare sallies of

It is something presumptuous on my part to enter into a wordy combat with a man who can spellbind and hypnotize his audience. I know very well that I am not equal to the occasion and if I do not get the favor of this bright and intelligent audience, composed as it is of the beauty and chivalry of Omaha, when I am wrestling with this Adonis of the Omaha bar. I will only beg you to remember that a man cannot control his own makeup. I am bound to ask you to bear up with my plain and commonplace English and plain spoken truths, which have gotten me into trouble so many times.

It seemed to me somewhat of an impertinence for Mr. Gurley to challenge me to debate with him the propriety of giving David H. Mercer a sixth term in congress. It is an extraordinary proceeding. I claim to be an American citizen endowed with the sovereignty of citizenship and no man has a right to question me in my choice of public servants. That is precisely what I have been challenged. It is simply amazing that anyone should be called upon to account for his opposition to, or his preference for, public servants. But Mr. Gurley has been bate with him the propriety of giving devote my time exclusively to the discussion of the subject in hand and if I bring Mr. Gurley in personally it will only be when he is directly connected with David H. Mercer. We must at the outset look

come direct from Mr. Gurley. The legislature of 1887 had two great functions to perform; one of these was the election of a United States senator and the other was he regulation of railways, and the taxaion of railway property on a level with he property owned by all other corporaions or individuals.

We find here in this book "testimony bepre the United States Pacific Railway tommission," testimony taken within three ponths after the legislature of 1887 had djourned. You will find on page 1257 Mr. turley's testimony, and I will read a porton of it. I shall read from a copy. If Mr. Gurley, or any of his friends, want to leep pace with me they can take this book, pen it at page 1257, and see I am not mis-

OMAHA. Neb., June 27, 1887.—W. F. Gur-by, being duly sworn and examined, testi-ed as follows, the chairman, Governor Pattison of Pennsylvania, questioning: Q.—What is your business? A.—I am an



The first necessity of athletics is stomach. Food is the source of all physical strength, but to extract and late the strength from food requires that the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition should be in a dition of good health. What is true of the athlete is true of every man and woman; physical health and vigor depend upon the digestion and assimila-

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures diseases of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition, and by enabling the perfect digestion and assimilation of food, builds the body up with solid flesh and muscle.

"I used ten bottles of Dr. Pierce's Goiden Nedical Discovery and several vials of his 'Pleasant
Petlets' a year ago this spring, and have had no
trouble with indigestion since, "writes Mr. W. T.
Thompson, of Townsend, Broadwater County,
Montana. "Words fail to tell how thankful I
am for the relief as I had suffered so much and
"seemed that the doctors could do me no good,
got "win in weight to 125 pounds, and was not
"you at all. Now I weigh nearly to
day's work on the farm. I have
be a good word to say for Dr.
"medicine."

an Sense Medical Adviser, es in paper covers, is sent of 21 one-cent stamps to mailing only. Address nation for congress the first time.

I notice many standing. It was the agreement, I believe, that after 8:15 all seats that were not occupied should be filled by the first comers. Some ticket holders have not taken their seats here (indicating) and there are others in the balcony. Those who are standing may take them.

Ladies and Gentlemen: In the earlier days of the republic, when newspapers were scarce and the other agencies for dissemination of knowledge were fewer than they now are, it was the custom for those who were advocating opposing men and measures to meet in joint debate and discuss them. The same principle applies, in a sense, here tonight, Mr. Mercer is a candidate for the recomination for congress. Mr. Rosewater is opposed to him. Mr. Rosewater, aside from his strong personality, has a powerful newspaper, both of which everyone concedes to him the liberty to use as he pleases. Mr. Mercer has no newspaper. Mr. Gurley is Mr. Mercer's friend. He challenges Mr. Rosewater to discuss the proposition before the public. Mr. Rosewater accepts, and here we are.

I wish that we had a dollar a head from the republican county central committee of pears to be from this fine audience, and as speaker it certainly will be (laughter), we shall ask the gentlemen to go on the road and allow us to promote the show. We enough money, perhaps, to carry on the next campaign. Not a national campaign, because there would not be money enough, but just an ordinary state campaign.

Ladies and gentlemen, it does me great friend, a gentleman endowed in a large degree with a combination that is not at all usual-the force of logic and the grace of speech. He is here tonight not to defend Mr. Mercer, but to advocate his cause.

pany? A.—I was working alone so far as I was concerned.
Q.—What kind of work did you do? A.—Well, I have tried to state. As soon as a bill was introduced I endeavored to find out when it was liable to come-up for discussion and passage and to look after it in a general way.
Q.—What did you do to fix the members of the legislature with relation to bills? A.—Nothing more than talk in regard to the bills. for twenty minutes. (Applaume.) MR. GURLEY.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen was somewhat embarrassed when my distinguished opponent commenced opening remarks, for while A.—Nothing more than talk in regard to the bills.

Q.—Did you talk to the individual or did you talk to them collectively? A.—I talked to them individually, not collectively.

Q.—Did they have a room in the halls of the legislature known as the oil room?

A.—I have heard of such a room, but I never saw it to my knowledge.

Q.—Where did you hear of it?. A.—In the papers, principally through The Bes.

Q.—As an actual fact you do not know of any such room? A.—I don't know of such a room, no, sir.

Q.—What did you hear about the oil room through The Bee? A.—I simply heard that there was such a room. I never understood what they meant by it myself.

Q.—What was it reported that they did in that room? A.—I don't know that I can tell.

Q.—Did they have Arthring materials? speaks so beautifully of me, so kindly, he praised me so thoroughly that I was very much afraid that it would be embarrassing for me to discuss the issue which we are here to debate. But he did not remain very long in that kindly mood. He proceeded to discuss my personality and devoted some fifteen to eighteen minutes of his time to discussing me. Now, fellow citizens, I am not a candidate for congress. (Applause.) I am not now a andidate for public office, but if I ever am shall be glad to know that my disinguished opponent can bring no more serious charges against me than he seeks to bring by reading my own testimony (Applause).

It has been said that I am the friend MR. ROSEWATER. of David H. Mercer. That is true. I am the man which should deprive him of the friendship of an honest American citizen.

Q.-Did they have drinking materials? Was that the allegation? A.-I don't know,

there by the name of David H. Mercer?"

Now, then, when Mr. Gurley comes up to

tell you the magnificent record that Mr.

Mercer made you must take it with some

grain of allowance. He is afflicted with an

impediment in his memory and distressing

lapses of veracity. He had these defects

already fifteen years ago. (Laughter.) He

did not remember one solitary railroad bill

session. And yet I have here a list of

more than twenty or thirty. The most im-

portant measure was the charter of Omaha.

in which he, with others, labored arduously

to destroy the work of our delegation act-

ing under instructions of citizens of Omaha

and pledged to enact a law that would re-

quire taxation of railway property on an

equal footing with other property. They

right of eminent domain in the acquisition

of parks. It has cost us more than half a

million dollars to get a plot of park land

which we could have had at that time for

less than one hundred thousand dollars.

And yet Mr. Gurley did not remember on

the 17th of June what happened on the 20th

of March, less than ninety days previously.

His memory was not good, but other wit-

nesses are in that book, George Crawford,

for example. Crawford, a fellow lobbyist.

remembered very distinctly how he enter-

tained the legislature. He entertaind them,

he said, sometimes with bad stories, some-

times with cigars, sometimes with wine

yet he could not remember.

and sometimes he would sing to them. I

Now, I regret to recall this ancient his-

(Loud applause). public servants. But Mr. Gurley has been in the humor of presenting himself here and I have indulged him. I am willing to discuss the candidacy of David H. Mercer. but I fear that it will be disappointing to many of you if you have come here to many of you if you have and the union. Mercer is a mount. I am you to make allowances for my memory. You need not do it, fellow citizens. When I refer tonight to the many of you we will support it by the record of David H. Mercer I will be disappointing to the wath and you to make allowances for my money into campaigns unless it was raised for him by his first mount. The wall of the company in you we will not to the mount of the paid my expenses.

Q.—What expenses? A.—Expenses while
I was at Lincoln, living there.
Q.—What expenses do you mean by living? A.—I mean my living expenses, my board and that kind of thing.
Q.—Did you do the lobbying for the Union Pacific Railroad company at the capitol? A.—What do you mean by lobbying? Edward Rosewater, my distinguished opponent, says: "It would pay the people h. Mercer. We must at the business capitol? A.—What do you mean by loopy ing?

The Chairman—I am examining you. The Witness—I know, but I want to understand the question fully.

The Witness—I know, but I want to understand the question fully.

The Chairman—I put the question. Did you do the lobbying of the Union Pacific Railway company at the capitol during the session of the legislature?

The Witness—I have stated that I was employed by Mr. Thurston to go down there and look after these bills. They were railroad bills. I did so. The employment was prominence and are on record. From that a prominence are the form and prominence and are on record. From that a prominence and are on record. From that a prominence and are on record. From that a prominence are the first time and the prominence and seem that the prominence are the first time and the prominence are the continued applause). The Chairman—I am examining you. The Witness—I know, but I want to understand the question. Did you do the lobbying of the Union Pacific Railway company at the capitol during the prominence and gurieve and the question fully. The Chairman—I am examining you. The Witness—I know, but I want to understand the question. Did you do the lobbying of the Union Pacific Railway company at the capitol during the session of the legislature?

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The Chairman—I am examining you.

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The Chairman—I am examining you.

The W

from him.

Q-Did you ever appear before any committee? A.—No, sir.

Q-How did you convince the members?

A-I don't know that I convinced any of them. I very often discussed bills that Picayune pettifogger! Fellow citizens, were pending.

Q.—Can you name one single bill that you discussed with any one member of the Nebraska legislature? A.—I don't believe that I can name a single bill now. There were a great many of them.

Q.—It didn't make much of an impression on you at the time? A.—It might have at the time, but it has escaped my memory now. who were the opposing candidates to Mr. Mercer at that time? They were two able, distinguished, reputable members of the Douglas county bar; men of unimpeachable character, men of unimpeachable integrity; friends of mine then, although then I was for Mercer. Friends of mine today, al-Q.—Did you ever succeed in convincing a member of the legislature that he ought to change his opinion? A.—I don't know that I ever convinced any of them, I am though today I am for Mercer. They were Hon. Edward J. Cornish and Hon. John L. Kennedy. (Loud applause.)

enough to hold down a seat in congress?"

(Applause.)

Oh, yes, but at that time those gentlemen sure.
Q.—Did any of them afterward change their opinion? A.—I cannot tell.
Q.—How did you observe the result of your work at Lincoln? A.—I don't know that I did observe the result very closely.

Cornish today? (Loud and continued approach to the contin Mr. Rosewater-A series of questions plause.) I know what Edward J. Cornish were then asked as to the persons asso-A manly and honest man. clated with Mr. Gurley, employed by the is today. Union Pacific in connection with legislation knew it then; I know it today. My disat Lincoln and after Mr. Gurley had testitinguished opponent knows it today and will fied that he did not remember a solitary (Laughter.) person associated with him in the railroad

lobby he was asked, "Was there a man He said to you, my fellow citizens, that truths which have often gotten him into Answer—Yes.

Q-Was he employed in the same capacity with you? A.—I don't know what his employment was. He never told me.

Q-Did you have a conversation with him when he was there in connection with legislation of the Union Pacific? A.—I have had a number of conversations with him. I don't remember what they were. his, which have gotten him into trouble. (Laughter.)

In an editorial on July 5, 1896, he says: The anti-Mercer crusade is a most despicable exhibition of vindictiveness and want of loyalty to the vital interests of the community. The men who have joined in it would rather see Omaha a heap of ruins than forego their personal gratification or political advantage. The same day in an editorial my distin-

guished opponent says: The turning down of Mercer would not only be an exhibition of base ingratitude to a man who has rendered more efficient service to the cause of labor than any other man Nebraska has ever sent to congress, but would prove disastrous to the interests of the workingmen. that he handled only ninety days after the serv

These are but a few of the things which he said about Mr. Mercer. He also gave Mr. Mercer the credit-the sole credit-for passing the exposition bill in the house of representatives. He gave him the sole credit for that. He gave him the sole credit for the Indian supply depot. Mercer. succeeded in destroying that portion of the he said, was the man. It would be base incharter and also the provision granting the gratitude to turn him down then. He repeated these endorsements in 1898, when Mercer had been nominated for the fourth term. He told the citizens of this congressional district that he was one of the best representatives that Nebraska ever had. He said his influence was widely expanded. he was becoming a national character, he from this district or any other district from loyalty to Mr. Mercer and he cites the the state of Nebraska. When did the gentleman change his mind? (Laughter and they have been together ever since. There things to do. (Laughter.) Mercer

from The Bee building to the old postoffice? (Laughter and loud applause). Could it have been when from nine to ten thousand dollars a year were taken out of the coffers of The Bee Publishing company or building company and turned into the treasury of the United States? Could it have been on account of this that my distinguished opponent changed his mind? But there are other candidates for congress and my distinguished opponent in a speech in the Eighth ward the other night said that he admitted that Mr. Mercer had done great work for this district and this state, but he said he was a hustler, and he said we didn't need a hustler any longer. (Laughter). He said that Mercer had gotten all the appropriations for public buildings that could be gotten in this district and therefore we did not need him any more. I suppose in view of the amiable acquiescent and somewhat negative support my distinguished opponent is giving to his congressional associates he does not recognize in any one of them a hustler. (Laughter.)

congress of the United States. One class is the wideawake, active, energetic business man, the other class is comprised this fine audience to apply to the uses of of men versed in the science of political government, elequent in speech and this county, and I made up my mind that like my distinguished opponent, Prince if this should be a success tonight, as it ap- Ruperts in debate. (Laughter and loud applause.) They are few in number. suspect from the suggestions of the first want my distinguished opponent to tell us which of these other statesmen who are opposing Mr. Mercer have his support. I want him to tell us which one of these shall charge a dollar a head and make gentlemen, all friends of mine, are more thoroughly in accord with republican principles and republican policies than David H. Mercer. The fact is, fellow citizens, he will not name them. He has no candtdate. His mission in this campaign is not nonor tonight to preside on behalf of my to build up, but to tear down; not to create, but to destroy; not to raise, but to ruln, and I am sorry that my distinguished opponent has never learned the lesson which has its "confirmation strong as proofs of hely writ," that from the political ruin I have the pleasure of presenting to you of his own handiwork no ladder can rise Mr. William F. Gurley, who will now speak upon whose rounds he may lawlessly scale to the perch of his "winged ambitions." There is, however, a large sized and

But, fellow citizens, there are just two

classes of men who have influence in the

respectable rumor affoat to the effect that my distinguished opponent expects, after he has killed off Mr. Mercer and by his chilly support freezes his associate candidates to death, to rise in his lofty majesty and take the biscuit himself. (Laughter). What a glorious sight that would be! (Laughter.) How valiantly he would fight and battle for republican principles and the success of the ticket. How he would hurrah for the permanent annexation of the Philippines. How he would favor putting the American flag wherever it could be put to stay there. What magnificent epithets would hurl at the miscreants, political assassins and republican renegades who would have the temerity to oppose ticket. Consistency, thou art a jewel, but if my distinguished opponent ever owned had still many things unfinished. But why that jewel he placed it in pawn years ago a sixth term? Let me call attention to the and forgot to redeem it.

Chairman Goss, who presides for my dishis friend; I was his friend in 1887, and tinguished friend, has suggested that a from that day to this I know not aught of subscription of one dollar per head be raised from this audience in order to assist the republican county committee in carrying on its work. Why not apply to My distinguished opponent says that when Mr. David H. Mercer to pay the assessment refer you to Mr. Mercers' magnificent which was levied on him and save this au-

his magnificent record? Let us see. In an cer. But my friend forgets to mention that editorial published in The Bee July 2, 1896, that was Mercer's third term, and that was at a period when Omaha was struggling with all her might and main for the sucof this district better to put all the small cess of an enterprise upon which we all bebore aspirants for congress on a pension lieved its immediate future prosperity depended. I refer to the exposition. It was but natural that those who had a deep interest in the success of the exposition should do everything they could to continue torial he says: "Will the citizens of Mr. Mercer in congress, because the exposition bill had to go through the committee of which Mr. Mercer was chairman. We desired a friendly chairman in charge of because some picayune pettifogger has been that bill in order that it might pass withdeluded into the belief that he is big out serious obstruction. And this brings me to the claim Mr. Mercer has for the monumental work he has done.

I do not deny him whatever credit be longs to him, although we have often given him credit for work done by others. But when it is assumed that he is the only man that can represent this district, I want to know upon what that assumption rests. I want my friend to tell me whether Mr. Mercer would be satisfied with a sixth term and quit there. Would he be satisfied with a seventh term? Would be want an eighth term? Would be want to be there forever? But Mr. Mercer himself has shown that he personally does not believe that he is inponent. At that time they were opposing dispensable. He has shown by his conduct that he was willing at the time, when he MR. GURLEY. pretended that you needed him so much, to leave you in the lurch in the house of rep-

resentatives. Two years ago Mr. Mercer presented himself as a candidate for a fifth term and I from this district? When was it? Has he want to say right here that my anxiety to admit it; knew it then and denied it have him nominated for a fifth term was about our introducing facts for the purpose not very ardent. It was very clear that he of confusing the issue, and then he reads had been rewarded way beyond all merit. to you from the hotel ledger of the Capiyou will have to bear with his plain spoken He had four successive terms in congress tol hotel of 1887. (Laughter.) Is that mawhen no other man from Nebraska ever trouble. (Laughter.) I propose to read had more than three. He had also graduone or more of the plain spoken truths of ally disengaged himself from association Mercer credit for many things which he practically altogether. He had become a non-resident. Now, then, in 1900 Mr. Mercer presented himself to the constituency in the Eighth ward; he says that subof this district and was accorded upon the term. The term for which he was elected te congress will not terminate until March 4, 1903

He was not only not content when he ple elect him to serve out that term, but he had been re-elected he began to scheme defeating him, because he wants him deand work to abandon that place and leave feated? (Loud applause.) If there is any of his own elevation to the United States senate. He began to vacate his own place when he pretended to be indispensable. aged to get along with inferior material, as him then because we all thought that that compelled to suffer unless he himself per-

in the lower house of congress! If we could have dispensed with Mercer

partment of the Platte were transferred | cigars, and that is the nice kind of work | you, fellow republicans, candidly and Gurley and Mercer were engaged in. Now, I want Mr. Mercer to answer this go to the congress of the United States

question through his understudy: Would with an opposition majority against him, Mr. Mercer remain in Omaha if he was with an opposition president in the White turned down? Would be remain and retain | House, and in his first term get an aphis residence in Omaha if we should not propriation for a \$100,000 building for the nominate him this fail, or re-elect him, or city of South Omaha? That is what Merwould he go back to Washington and en- cer did. (Applause). gage in the old business in which he was trained at Lincoln in 1887?

pened nearly three years ago. Now, the In '96 and '98 we had many things for contract for locating the headquarters of him to do. We have nothing more for him the army was made in 1889, years before to do now." I want to read to you a let-Mercer was thought of for congress. Did ter which was handed to me yesterday Mr. Mercer have anything to do with bring. by Captain Palmer of this city, a letter ing it there or keeping it there? The army which had been received by him from a headquarters was located in The Bee building before ever the building was constructed, under a contract with the government. During the democratic administration of Grover Cleveland my republican and democratic enemies exerted all their influence to have it moved, but Mr. Lamont saw through their motives and kept it right there because is was recommended by the commanders of the department. The rent paid by the government was not unreasonable. We are getting more rent from the tenants that we have on that floor today than we got when the army was there. Will my friend inform this audience why he has injected the army headquarters into this debate? Was it to confuse the minds of the public? The truth is that my opposition to Mr. Mercer can be plainly stated in a few words:

buildings and grounds places him where he can be of very material service to all of the western states. He is so thoroughly western in his life and education, and so thoroughly posted as to our needs, that it would be a great loss to the west, in my opinion, if he should not remain in congress we could not hope to have a western man chairman of that committee. The ranking member is a New Yorker. Sincerely yours, member is a New Yorker. can be plainly stated in a few words:

Pirst and foremost, republics are not ungrateful, neither are republicans. We have done everything that could be done for this man. He has had five successive terms, and that is more than any other man has had, west of the Missouri river, but one. May 29: There is but one man west of the Missouri river in the lower house of congress that has been there longer than Mr. Mercer. Not one man in all New England has been there longer than Mr. Mercer, and the men who have been retained from New York, Sereno Payne, the leader of the house of representatives, and Wadsworth, from New York, General Bingham of Philadelphia and Dalzell of Pittsburg. These are about the alive only men out of the entire New York and Pennsylvania delegations. Henderson and Hull from Iowa are the only two men that have represented Iowa in congress more than five successive terms, and Hopkins, Hitt and Cannon of Illinois. Every one of these men is recognized as a leader, with whom Mercer cannot stand comparison. Out of the entire galaxy of democrats in southern states only five have been there

longer than Mr. Mercer. Now, then, let us admit that it was well and proper for us to make a struggle for Mercer in 1896 and give him a third term. Let us admit that we gave him a fourth term for the very simple reason that we fact that Mr. Mercer in his first term secured the South Omaha postoffice appropriation in a democratic house and with a democratic president. He was there only one term, and it was not so much because it was David H. Mercer, but the pressure of John A. McShane, the pressure of the packing houses and the influences behind them gave the appropriation to South Omaha, and Mercer took the credit.

In the very first and only term that John A. McShane served he got the appropriation for the Omaha postoffice and had one million two hundred thousand dollars appropriated during that term. My friend don't seem to remember also that Senator Manderson had something to do with securing appropriations. the appropriations had been voted for the purchase of the grounds and a part of the Omaha postoffice building when Mr. Mercer came in. The government surely would not have left the building unfinished after it had made such large appropriations for the acquisition of the grounds and the construction of the lower portion of the building.

Mr. Gurley has said to us here that he has always been the friend of Mr. Mercer. There is a man by the name of Johnny Wright, a colored man, who runs a house of about the same character as the notorious Midway in the lower end of the Third ward. That gentleman rents his house from Mr. Gurley and from Mr. Ransom, two very intimate friends and gentlemen of the same stock. Mr. Gurley, of course, claims to be a republican and Mr. Ransom claims to be a silver republican democrat. Mr. Gurley went to Mr. Wright when Mr. Mercer was running for a fourth term, that is, in 1898, and he said to Johnny Wright: "Whatever Ransom tells you to do, you

do. You help out wherever he wants you to. I cannot give you any directions." Wright, of course, had to take his instructions from Ransom and Ransom was at the primaries. The truth is that the for Hitchcock, the demopop competitor of Mercer. Here is loyalty for you.

Fellow citizens, again will I ask my distinguished opponent when was it that he first discovered that David H. Mercer had ceased to be a useful member of congress given you any reason? He talks to you terial to the issue? I think not. Now, fellow citizens, he says that in 1896 he gave with Omaha and lost his identity here, did not do. He says that he gave Mercer credit for many things when others were entitled to part of the credit. He said that stantially tonight. In other words, my appeal of himself and his friends a fifth fellow citizens, he tells you that in 1896 he made false statements about David Mercer, knowing them to be false, for the purpose of electing him to congress because he wanted him elected. If that is so, isn't accepted that nomination and had the peo- it fair to assume that tonight he would make false statements about Mercer, knowwhat did he do? Within three days after ing them to be false, for the purpose of it vacant and have us put to the expense flaw in the logic of that statement, will and trouble of a special election in case my distinguished opponent point it out when he comes to reply? A Voice-He can't do it. He said that we wanted Mercer in '96

Now, if we could have spared him during because the life of this city, in the opinion the past two years we might have man- of many, was at stake. Yes, they wanted Mr. Gurley thinks. We would have been exposition would be the salvation of the city of Omaha. We had come to the partbaps had been nominated, (Laughter.) ing of the ways. We realized that it What an awful situation, to be left for would give an impetus to the metropolitan two years without that indispensable man character of Omaha as a city, and David said then applies fully to every instance H. Mercer was given by prominent members of congress the sole credit for passing on the 4th of March, 1901, why cannot we that bill in the house. Ex-Speaker Reed had more power for good, for the people of dispense with him as well on the 4th of so testified. The Omaha Bee so testified. Nebraska, than any legislator we ever had March, 1903? Mr. Gurley tells us of his (Laughter.) My distinguished opponent so testified. He says in '88 we gave him States senators that the framers of the fact that in 1887 they began together and another term because we had a few more applause.) I want to ask my distinguished was nothing very creditable in their being saved the city, but there were a few leaves opponent when it was that the scales first together in 1887. I must return to that we wanted him to clean up in the back fell from his eyes? (Laughter.) I would record, because I had not finished at the yard and they are all out now. The gentle- struct the legislature whom they wanted. ask my distinguished opponent when was end of my first twenty minutes. I have the man says there is nothing more to be acsuppose Mr. Gurley was the man who as- it that your vision first became unobscured? ledger here of the Capitol hotel of Lincoln complished. He said, and it is true-one sisted in the singing. (Laughter.) and (Laughter). I want to sak my distinguised This book contains the bills which John M. thing he has stated tonight which is true opponent to tell this audience when it was Thurston paid for the lobby. It contains a he says that Mercer got the appropriation that he had a change of heart? (Laughter.) \$2,531.65 hotel bill; \$910 of that was paid for the South Omaha building through in tory, but it is part of what is to be said Was it, could it have been oh, perish the for Mercer, Gurley and several other a democratic congress while there was a didate in this district to attempt to subvert here tonight with regard to Mr. Mercer ignoble thought—could it have been when patriots, and here you will find four hun- democratic president, in his first term.

soberly, how many men do you think could

But he says that he is going to state in a few words his opposition to Mercer, and Reference has been made here to my I took it down. He says, "I am opposed to opposition to Mr. Mercer on account of the him because we have done all for him that transfer of the headquarters of the army we could do. We have given him five into the old postoffice building. That hap- terms. Does he want to stay there for life? congressman from South Dakota, dated May 21.

May 21.

Captain H. E. Palmer, Omaha, Neb: My Dear Sir-Mr. Mercer rendered us good service in connection with the sanitarium bill, and I want to speak a good word in his behalf. I sincerely hope that you and your friends may be able to assist him very materially in his candidacy for relection. The fact is that Mr. Mercer is a very useful member of the house of representatives, particularly from the standpoint of the west. His position as chairman of the house committee on public buildings and grounds places him where he can be of very material service to all of

(Applause). Here is another letter which I received oday from a gentleman by the name of Blanchard, who is connected with Shelley-Rogers company, live stock commission men of South Omaha. He says, under date of

May 29:

The people of South Omaha are very much interested in Congressman Mercer and desire to help him because he helped them. One instance, May 6, 1902, Secretary of the Exchange Gulid wrote Mercer that our people wanted a sub postoffice station at the Exchange building, South Omaha. May 13 or 14 we read in Associated Press dispatches, Washington, D. C. that the matter had been presented and would be granted, etc.

I write you this to show again that he is alive to the interests of his people and goes right after anything they need. If you can use this to advantage in your debate, I shall feel well paid.

(Applause.)

But he says, or rather intimates, for he has not yet told us why it was that he was

opposed to Mr. Mercer, but he intimates that one of the reasons is because Mr. Mercer went to the city of Lincoln in 1898, while my distinguished opponent thought he was a candidate for United States senator. (Applause.) Aye, that was an unpardonable offense-for a congressman who had served six years-eight years-in this district, to aspire to the senatorship of the United States while my distinguished opponent imagined that he had a show. (Laughter.)

Why, of course, we all know he never did. He charges Mercer with treachery because he says that a large majority of the republicans of this district expressed their preference for him for United States senator on the ballot. Not at all; not at all; my distingulahed opponent. It is generally known that a large number of those votes expressing preference for you were simply democratic votes cast to complicate the republican situation. Voices, "Yes, yes." (Laughter and loud and

continued applause.) Now then let us see. Was that treachery? Mercer hadn't contested, it is true, for the delegation from Douglas county with my distinguished opponent. And he says, that Mr. Webster, after my ponent beat him at the primaries, he says, "Webster, be it to his honor, abided by the result." That was in 1900. Does the gentlemen remember the primary of '98 when John L. Webster carried the delegation from this county? Does the gentleman remember that after Webster carried this county, and those delegates were pledged to Webster, he went down there and he cajoled and he persuaded and he threatened and he pleaded with them that they would forsake their honor, break their pledge and vote for him for United States senator? (Laughter and loud applause.) Let the gentleman deny that if he dare, and when I come to reply I will prove it. (Laughter and ap-

take votes from Mr. Webster, and I declare

MR. ROSEWATER. I dare deny that I ever made an effort to

plause.)

that it is absolutely untrue that any one of these men was importuned to leave Webster so long as Webster had any show. Gentlemen, I want to call your attention to the campaign of 1898 and the difference between that and 1900. In 1898 there was no such issue as Webster and anti-Webster this county in 1898 admitted that he was pledged to Webster or against him. were sailing under the flag of an unpledged delegation. The opportunities for Mr. Webster at that time were simply of an incidental nature. There was a possibility of a deadlock and in that case he might have had the delegation with him, and I can prove that for at least two weeks, or three, I had talks with members of the delegation from day to day and when some of them wanted to break away from Webster I said to them to remain there as long as it was possible for them to do so, but that was no moral obligation hinding them to any man. They were not elected for Webster. They did not claim to be for him. In 1900 there was a senatorial contest in this county and state. Let me assure you that my position is not inspired by a personal grievance; not at all.

In 1887, when my antagonist perpetrated that crime of buildozing and cajoling the legislature to go back on their solemn pledges, he was down there with Mercer doing everything he could to prevent the honest expression from the ballot box, which is the most sacred right American citizens have. I made my remonstrance, and made it specific enough, and what I of subversion of the popular will. In 1875 the people who framed the constitution of Nebraska were so wrought up by the corrupt manipulation of legislatures and outrage perpetrated in the selection of United organic law were compelled to insert in that instrument a provision that the people should have a right to express their preferences for United States senator and in That privilege was not granted for fun or given merely as a jest. It imposed the most solemn duty which a member of the legislature is required to discharge.

What right had Mercer or any other canthe will of the people. Mr. Gurley says that and explains why I personally opposed his the offices of the headquarters of the De- dred and sixty odd dollars for bar bills and That is so. Fellow citizens, I want to ask a farge personally opposed his the offices of the 10,000 votes cast | you when you start so look for a room.

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at the primaries. The truth is that the majority of delegates to that convention were elected as my friends and not as those of Webster, but by a juggle and trade in the convention for minor offices the candidates in that convention were changed and other candidates were substituted, as I can prove. There was no issue here of Webster and anti-Webster. The truth is, the senatorship was presumed to go south of the Platte. No one was voted for for senator at those primaries and nobody was asked to express a choice. No candidate for the legislature who went before the people of this county in 1898 admitted that he was work."

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cal treatment to ald us in our temperance work."

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