

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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The Kansas Pronouncement

After all the wild talk indulged in Kansas and the sweeping victory of the insurgents in the primary there, the platform pronouncement just put out by the republican state council is really more conservative than people had been led to expect.

The only subject on which it takes direct issue with the Taft administration is as to whether the tariff law is, as Mr. Taft has declared, a substantial fulfillment of the platform pledge of 1908.

The Kansas refusal to recognize the revision of the tariff of 1909 as "a satisfactory fulfillment" of the tariff pledge of the republican platform, and declare for further revision on one schedule at a time, according to recommendations of an independent, non-partisan tariff commission.

Even in this program the Kansas declaration is not essentially different from that outlined by the president, by whose insistence the existing tariff board was given an appropriation to pursue the necessary investigations, without which no more satisfactory revision is to be expected.

Whether the revision shall be concerned with only one schedule at a time is up to congress, which could have pursued that method before had it so desired.

The other features of insurgency where the Kansas platform goes beyond what the party is already committed to are the revision of the house rules to make committee chairmanships elective by the house instead of appointive by the speaker and a provision for the physical valuation of railroads.

The first is purely a question of parliamentary procedure, in which our own experience is conflicting, the elective committees of the senate seemingly producing the same results as the appointive committees of the house.

The physical valuation of railroads is also rather a detail than a principle. It is in progress in many states under state supervision; the proposition was offered in the Chicago convention, but voted down.

The valuation, however, is involved wherever the question of reasonable rates arises, and the Interstate Commerce commission must eventually arrive at a valuation in the exercise of its rate-making powers.

The tribute to Colonel Roosevelt is well put and will elicit no dissent, although if its purpose is to hail him as the leader of the insurgent cause and drive him into antagonism with President Taft and the administration it will hardly affect the colonel's course.

It may be of interest to the public to know just how the state council of each political party in Kansas is made up. Its membership consists of the nominees on the party ticket for United States senator, congress, all state offices and state senators, together with the national committee-man, hold-over United States senator and hold-over state senators of the same political party and the chairmen of the respective county committees.

This is a peculiar combination, but, under existing conditions, doubtless represents and reflects the majority of republicans in Kansas.

Why Men Seek Office

Discussing his own candidacy for reelection, Speaker Wadsworth of the New York house of representatives, one of the "Old Guard" leaders, is quoted as saying that should it be to "my advantage" to decline a renomination a friend, whom he named, would receive the full support of his county.

Aside from showing this young leader's ability to deliver his county where he sees fit, his declaration raises the question, why do men seek office?

Does the average man seek or refuse to seek office for the reason that Mr. Wadsworth implies he does—to serve his own advantage? Some do not; some accept office with much higher motives than that, motives that comprehend public weal, but too many do not.

They go into it purely for "advantage," and when one office no longer serves their advantage as they think it should, they seek another. Of course merit should count in politics the same as in any other line of public or private service, but it is questionable if any man has the right to regulate his whole plan of action on the basis of personal aggrandizement.

The chief danger in so doing lies in the probability of serving himself better than his constituency, whose interests he is placed in the office to serve.

Most people have got away from the delusion that the office seeks the man in this country, but there is a vast difference between a man seeking an office to serve the public and going after it for the sole purpose of private gain.

More Ship Lines Needed

American consular agents abroad have done much to awaken merchants and manufacturers at home to the prime necessity of adapting their wares to foreign customs as a means of increasing their importations and now some of these consuls are urging the importance of better steamship facilities for the same purpose.

peans also, because they are in

closer proximity, send their personal representatives down into Egypt to cultivate the trade, study its peculiarities and, in addition, maintain long-time credit accounts, neither desirable nor feasible for Americans.

The consul points out the fact that goods shipped from New York to Egypt suffer by delay. For instance, a recent cargo of cottonseed oil reached its Egyptian destination from 4 to 5 per cent loss and the buyer was able to collect damages neither from the American steamship nor the insurance company.

And as cottonseed oil is an article of which Egypt imports large quantities, this becomes a rather important matter. It certainly does not conduce to a building-up of American commerce in Egypt.

This consul says that a steamship line should be established between New York and Tangier, instead of Gibraltar—that is to make Tangier the first port of entry. It is coincidental that even before his report has become generally circulated, exactly such a line is proposed by American capitalists and probably will be established.

This, perhaps, may be regarded as the first step toward direct and uninterrupted communication between Manhattan and Morocco and when that is accomplished it will mean an opening up to American industry of Alexandria, Smyrna, Constantinople, Odessa, and other important eastern trade centers now practically closed to our commerce.

New Road's New Policy

The Western Pacific railroad, which has just celebrated its advent in San Francisco, promises the people of the states it traverses that it will not go into politics nor seek to control elections and the laws as has been done by so many other railroads. A member of its law department declares:

The Western Pacific is the child of a new era in the relation between the railroads and the public. The chief features of this era consist in the recognition, on the one hand, of the fact that the railroads are the servants of the people and that the public has the right, through its authorities—national, state and municipal—to regulate them in the interests of the good of the great mass of the people, and, on the other hand, in a realization of the fact that the railroads are entitled to a fair return on an honest capital.

Here is a new policy to arrest the attention of older railway corporations. It is a novel policy for the state of California, which has never known freedom from railroad bossism and political manipulation. It has never dealt with a railroad before that recognized the people as its source of franchise right, the people as the overlord of its conduct as a common carrier.

It will be an interesting innovation to follow and if it is sincerely carried out the Western Pacific will undoubtedly be the gainer. The railroad that will treat fairly with the public ought not to suffer at the public's hands, and other railroad men are coming to this view of the matter. It is quite likely that the influence of this "new era" is what has brought this set of magnates to it at the very outset.

Others have had to be forced to see it, but we have reason to believe the majority of railroad men are seeing a light they never saw before, and that relations between the railroads and the public will be better in the future.

From a purely business standpoint this policy of the new Gould road will undoubtedly pay and that is the only standpoint from which this or any other similar business enterprise acts. In the course of events it may be reasonably expected that such a policy will, as a competitive influence, compel the older roads of California to modify their attitude toward the public.

Of course the Western Pacific comes into the far west at a time when it would be difficult if it desired to intrude itself in political power as the Southern Pacific did. With the gate to political control shut in its face, it is much easier for it to be good and put up a virtuous front.

Trying Law Suits in Newspapers

Many lawyers are averse to what they call "trying cases in the newspapers"; many others are not averse to it and many are not who say they are. It often depends on whether the newspaper happens to give their side the more favorable hearing or not. As a rule a lawyer will not take violent exception to a good strong boost for his side of the case, even in the columns of a newspaper, though his consent for such proceedings may be stirred to the utmost if the publication of the facts is adverse to him and his client.

Charles A. Towne of silver republican and populist fame, now, by virtue of single gold standard prosperity, a money-making lawyer in New York City, the other day went on record as being strongly opposed to "trying my case in the newspapers." In the same interview he proceeded to give out a carefully prepared statement of his case, which took up about one-half column of good newspaper space.

Of course, since Mr. Towne himself compiled the statement, it was naturally favorable to his side and, therefore, must have met with his entire satisfaction, even though its publication violated his sense of propriety.

It is always easy enough for a lawyer, if he will, to find an excuse for giving the newspapers a statement that he thinks may help his client's interests, no matter how much he may dislike the newspaper notoriety. It is a poor sort of lawyer who will not sacrifice a sensitive regard for professional ethics to the practical bene-

fit of a client promising a contingent

fee, and in the meantime, how can he help it if the limelight of publicity shows the way of other clients to his office?

It turns out that the reverend mountebank who was running for United States senator on three party tickets for whom 50,000 people were yearning to vote, received 1,796 votes in the republican column, 207 in the populist column and 433 votes in the prohibition column, where he had no opposition, making a total of 3,436 votes out of approximately 100,000, which is less than half what the notorious political grafter, Vanalstine, polled.

Mayor "Jim" is hardly in position to object to a recount when he, himself, made the proposition to Governor Bhal. member for a recount of the whole state by stipulation. If a recount by stipulation looked good to the mayor, a recount on demand of a defeated candidate in the questionable counties ought not to feaze him.

Mr. Bryan says he is going to do all he can to help elect democratic candidates, whom he denounced as dishonest and who are nominated in spite of him. But he will not interrupt his Chautauque collections in the midst of the season for any little side line like that.

Omaha's license inspector collapsed after a strenuous day accompanying the license inspector of Minneapolis, where he was visiting. He has our sympathy, but he ought to stay at home where the exigencies of his job do not require him to work so hard.

Why should the democratic nominee for United States senator, who has not only a press bureau, but his own press as well, object to the republican nominee having a press bureau? No monopoly. No restraint of trade. Let the scribblers scribble.

Why should a 16-year-old boy be permitted to work on a derrick on the top of a building under construction where he is exposed to constant risk of life? Such dangerous places should be occupied only by grown-up men with steady nerves.

Omaha's city clerk is calling for volunteers to accept lucrative appointments as clerks of registration, places which used to be in furious demand. The number of the jobless in these days of republican prosperity is mighty small.

That Ohio man who walked to his own funeral and listened to the services conducted at his grave probably meant to surpass the record of the one who continued to talk to his wife twenty minutes after he was dead.

Kansas democrats want the Massachusetts ballot, but they at least have more decency than Nebraska democrats in refraining from making the demand as "nonpartisan."

Lives Up to His Title

Washington Post. When everything is taken into consideration, it is not hard to explain why they all call him Sunny Jim when he talks so nicely about the president.

Beyond the Limit

Indianapolis News. In connection with Mr. Paul Morton's conviction that enforced military service is a good thing for the people, it will be remembered that Mr. Morton himself is beyond the conscription age.

Room Under the Canvas

Chicago Tribune. Consider that word "progressives" as employed by Mr. Roosevelt. It is sufficiently descriptive to satisfy the insurgents, while not necessarily conveying any imputation distasteful to the standpatters. The colonel has a great head.

The World is Full of Them

Baltimore American. Friends of a brave mother in Kansas, who held up her baby eight hours in a cistern up to her neck in water, are claiming a Carnegie medal for her. But if all mothers who brave danger and death in defense of their children are to be decorated, the Carnegie fund would never hold out. The world is full of them.

Recession of the Bicycle

New York World. The figures showing the decline in the value of bicycles exported from \$100,000,000 in 1907 to \$50,000,000 in 1909, are a warning to the bicycle industry. The "wheel" did not "come to stay" as a promise, it survives in considerable numbers in factory towns and elsewhere as a vehicle for use in saving carfare.

Matrimonial High Finance

Baltimore American. A California judge has decided that a divorced woman is the widow of her former deceased husband, even though he may have remarried after the divorce. With Reno to supply alimony, and California to award her thirds, any woman who knows how to marry consecutively, with good financial judgment, ought to settle herself very comfortably in life.

Our Birthday Book

September 1 1910. James Gordon Bennett, founder of the New York Herald, was born September 1 1786, in Banffshire, Scotland. He started his newspaper in 1810 and was its editor and proprietor for nearly forty years. He died in New York in 1872.

Ernest Brown, editor of the Indianapolis Star, is just 70 years old. He was born in Newazgo, Mich., and began his journalistic career in the early 50's. William E. Palmater, manager of the credit department of the Merchants National bank, was born September 1 1862, at Coldwater, Mich. He was from 1886 to 1907 with the McCormick Harvesting company at Omaha, and for the next eight years manager of the Bradstreet company here.

Korea that Was

Hermit Kingdom Loss Even the Name in the Process of Annexation to the Empire of Japan.

The toothsome morsel calculated to satisfy its land hunger for the moment which Japan has been negotiating for centuries, reached its destination with the formal annexation of Korea to the empire of the mikado. The Hermit kingdom is now a historic memory. Even its name is taken off the map. Henceforth it will be known as Cho-Sen, which means "Land of Morning Calm." The process of assimilation has been detailed in the dispatches. The spectacle attracted international attention, every land-gobbling nation expectantly observing how a novice in the business would comfort itself at the feast. But everything was planned by expert Anglo-Saxons of Teuton or Massachusetts stock, the educational power of example. Even the defunct ruling family of the shuffed out kingdom, sagged in advance with liberal pensions, looked pleasant during the ceremony of strangulation.

The obliteration of the centuries-old kingdom, says the New York Sun, has been in the program of Japan's secret diplomacy since the first transport carrying troops docked at Chemulpo, the seaport of Seoul, a short time before the night of the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war. The attack on Port Arthur opened the war with its distinctive character, the direction of Japanese methods in diplomacy, tempered by perhaps unnecessary caution as respects offending the too sensitive powers by overuling all promises and declarations anent the independence of Korea, has delayed the gobbling up of the great peninsula.

Sentimentalists who have looked up the ethnology of the Mongolians will say that this is the sad case of the child devouring the parent. The Japanese editorials of the last few weeks have been busy explaining that the parent was unworthy to live longer and in fair content for swallowing just for the good of the child in particular and of mankind generally.

Much was said by Japanese statesmen and apologists seeking the sympathy of the Anglo-Saxon peoples just before the outbreak of the war with Russia about Korea being "the arrow pointing at the heart of Japan." The Japanese did not begin to sense the menace of this arrow until the rapacity of the western powers made all the Asiatic coast from Canton to Vladivostok the theater of international rivalry. The arrow first seemed to be strung to the bow when China, which had acquired suzerainty over Korea with the weakening of the old kingdom, began to assert its sovereignty, greatly to the detriment of Japan. The war of 1894 followed.

At that time the humiliation of China by the treaty of Shimonoseki and the declaration of Korean independence by the Korean king, who assumed at the same time at the suggestion of the Japanese the title of emperor.

In October, 1905, Korea felt the first sting of the Japanese yoke. Queen Min, a forceful woman who had taken a leading part in the blind "palace politics" played by the emperor with Russia and Japan, threatened to throw all her influence into the lap of an astute Russian minister who was at the time in Seoul, which later led to the armed clash between his country and Japan. With the connivance of Mura, the Japanese minister at the court of Seoul, a band of ruffians partly native and partly Japanese, stormed the bedchamber of the queen on the night of August 1, 1905. Her body was burned on a hastily constructed funeral pyre, and when the emperor ministers searched the ashes the next morning they could find no remains of his majesty's consort except some bones of a little finger. The terrified emperor fled to the legation for protection, and later a magnificent state funeral was held over the finger bones of the queen.

That was but the beginning of the long and tortuous course of diplomatic intrigue, the result of which was the signing of the "palace politics" played by the emperor with Russia and Japan, threatened to throw all her influence into the lap of an astute Russian minister who was at the time in Seoul, which later led to the armed clash between his country and Japan. With the connivance of Mura, the Japanese minister at the court of Seoul, a band of ruffians partly native and partly Japanese, stormed the bedchamber of the queen on the night of August 1, 1905. Her body was burned on a hastily constructed funeral pyre, and when the emperor ministers searched the ashes the next morning they could find no remains of his majesty's consort except some bones of a little finger. The terrified emperor fled to the legation for protection, and later a magnificent state funeral was held over the finger bones of the queen.

The first of Japan's recent series of treaties with Korea, each one professing protection and independence even while taking away one more prop of sovereignty and autonomy, came on February 26, 1904, a fortnight after the landing of Japanese troops at Chemulpo and within a few days after the opening of hostilities with Russia. In a protocol signed by representatives of the two oriental emperors Japan pledged itself solemnly to insure the safety and repose of the reigning family of Korea and to guarantee the independence and territorial integrity of the Hermit nation; all in return for the simple privilege of being allowed to march troops into the country and drive the Russians out of its northern border.

No foreign critic of Japan's actions in Korea during the two years immediately following the war with Russia—and there have been some very bitter critics—has even been able to lay the most flagrant violations of all right and justice directly at the door of the Japanese government. The ministry in the Japanese capital seemed content to send advisers