



Governor Crouse will go out of office a more respected man than he was when he came in, or rather than he was during the first six months of his administration.

Many persons were prejudiced against Crouse from the first and his official acts during the first few months of his incumbency only added to the disfavor with which, in certain quarters, he was regarded. The governor was certainly unfortunate in the early part of his term, and at one time the feeling against him, particularly in Lancaster county, was very bitter.

The events following the collapse of the Capital National Bank placed him in rather strained relations with other state officials, and the friends of these gentlemen did not hesitate to say that his treatment of them was not always marked by that consideration which one state officer should show to another. There were several little conflicts at about this time and without going into the merits of these differences, it may be stated that the coldness existing between the governor and the other state officers assumed at times a frigid intensity.

Governor Crouse's course in retaining Garneau as world's fair commissioner was particularly obnoxious to the loyal and patriotic people of the state who felt and have since been convinced that a different policy, easily in the reach of the executive, might have made the Nebraska representation at the fair an object of genuine pride instead of the picturesque monstrosity that it really was, an eye-sore to all Nebraskans and an object of scorn to the people of the country. To be sure Governor Crouse's retention of Garneau for family reasons allowed that gay and polished gentleman the exquisite pleasure of dancing to the wheedling music that came from the perfumed lips of Lillian Russell then in Chicago and of floating with the fair cantatrice on the same sea of Champagne and of paying divers and sundry kinds of spectacular homage to the songster of many husbands, who at that time was about to be wed to Signor Perugini and who celebrated the anti-nuptial season with that prince of good fellows, Joseph Garneau, who was supposed to be representing Nebraska. But all this however pleasing it may have been to Mr. Garneau or amusing to Miss Russell was not especially gratifying to the people of this state and it was inevitable that the Garneau fiasco should bring discredit on Governor Crouse's administration.

Another source of dissatisfaction was the policy pursued by the governor in his appointments. His appointment of Hilton of Blair was regarded as an insult to the people of the state, and the digging up of a lot of fossilized, early day politicians, who had some how or other made an impression on Crouse in the sixties or seventies, and the appointment of these persons in large numbers to important offices to the exclusion of many deserving and more modern republicans, was productive of much discord. Lancaster county in the early part of his term seemed to be particularly abhorrent to the governor. The fact that an applicant for gubernatorial appointment was from this county seemed to take him out of the race even before he had started.

There were other objections to Governor Crouse. He was quite generally regarded as a cold selfish man. Affability is certainly not his forte and republicans who had been wont to visit the governor's office suddenly found the warmth and welcome that had always been found there under the administration of Crouse's predecessors were noticeably lacking and many visitors to the state house forgot to call at the executive office.

But latterly there has been a change. The governor is probably the same, but the people have learned to know him better and understand his real worth as a public officer. The tide of public sentiment began insensibly to turn about a year ago and last June when the governor suddenly rose up and administered a stinging and well deserved rebuke to the socialist Herron who at the commencement exercises of the University of Nebraska, spread his calumnies before the students and the public, there was a great impetus in the current. The governor has undoubtedly made mistakes, but no one has ever at any time impeached his integrity. He has from the first taken the office seriously and has exercised a close supervision over all the affairs of the state. He has caused reforms to be instituted, and with the assistance of other state officers has exacted the strictest economy in the expenditure of the public money. He has been a dignified, manly, brave officer and he has not hesitated to lift his voice to uphold the credit and fair fame of Nebraska as an opportunity presented itself. His expressions on the occasion of a request for the appointment of delegates from Nebraska to the sessionist or "south and west" convention at St. Louis and other much similar occasions are well remembered. They came at a time when the fool governors Waite and Lewelling and Pennoyer were blasting the reputation of the west by their mandlin utterances, and they atoned in a measure for the Garneau incident. Crouse is a loyal supporter of republican principles, and advocate of law and order, a fearless independent conscientious man. All things considered his record is entitled to the highest commendation and it is now quite generally admitted that he is one of the best governors this state has ever had. He lacks that peculiar quality that brings popularity, but he has by his performance of his public duties commanded the respect of the people, and his departure from official life is a source of sincere regret. It may be remarked in passing that the logic of events pointed to Crouse as the one man to be placed at the head of the republican state ticket in the late campaign, and it is needless to say if Crouse had been renominated Nebraska and the republican party would have been saved the humiliation involved in the election of Holcomb.

WHAT AILED THE SPEECH.

At the close of one of the sessions in the trial of Warren Hastings, when most of those had gathered in the anteroom, Dr. Parr stalked up and down the room in his pedantic, pompous way, growling out praises of the speeches of Fox and Sheridan, but saying not a word about Burke's.

Burke, sensitive at this omission and anxious for some commendation from the great authority, could at last contain himself no longer and burst out:

"Doctor, didn't you like my speech?"

"No, Edmund," replied Dr. Parr, calmly eyeing his excited questioner. "Your speech was oppressed with metaphor, dislocated by parenthesis and debilitated by amplification."

NOT A BIT RATTLED.

We went into a popular German beer garden, and my friend, who grows melodramatic when he is mellow, beckoned to a sleepy-looking German waiter, and with Shakespearean voice and gesture, exclaimed:

"Landlord, come thither! Bring to us two flagons of that amber juice whose effervescent foam overflows the crystal rim, Away!

The sleepy waiter stared an instant, then, turning to me, inquired: "You haf de same?"

SHE WAS.

"I think Miss Smith and Mr. Jones must be engaged; they have had their portraits taken together."

"Indeed? I am glad to hear it. I knew when I introduced them that she would be taken with him."

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