

plank and in spite of a state law requiring that preference be given old soldier applicants for position. This illustrates the significant difference between profession and practice."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of October 24, 1894, appears the following:

"The gang managers are making their usual play claiming everything."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of January 11, 1895, appears the following:

"What a howl would have gone up through the country if W. W. Taylor had been a populist."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of January 11, 1895, appears the following:

"South Dakota finances have gone republican."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of January 10, 1895, appears the following:

"Of the fifteen old soldiers who were candidates for minor positions in the house and senate at Pierre only three were chosen by the republican caucus, and this in spite of a statute giving special preference to old soldiers and in spite also of the loud protestations of friendship which we always hear by republicans in every platform, in every state convention and in every campaign. The old soldiers assembled at Pierre were so incensed at the shabby treatment accorded them by the caucus that the indignation meeting was held to protest against it. The old soldier is much beloved by the average republican about election time."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of January 14th, 1895, appears the following:

HE WAS NOT TOO BUSY.

"It cannot be pleaded in defense of public examiner Myers that he had too much work on his hands. Mr. Myers has had plenty of time to investigate minor officers; he spent several weeks in this city investigating the accounts of Albion Thorne, clerk of the courts, and as a result of his investigation the county, after spending about \$2,000 prosecuting the case, made the startling revelation that Mr. Thorne was \$75 short in his accounts. Mr. Myers had plenty of time to investigate the democratic treasurer of McCook county. He was vigilant enough in this case and when a shortage appeared promptly telegraphed the governor to suspend the treasurer, although the bond was abundantly sufficient to protect the county. Mr. Myers cannot escape criticism on the ground of overwork. It may be that under the law the state treasurer's accounts are kept so as to give the state absolute protection in the future. The state treasurer should be paid a sufficient salary and the state should get whatever profit accrues from interest on the state deposits. Mr. Myers' suggestion as to the selection by the state of depository banks and the keeping of a double set of books by which the auditor and treasurer could check each other is good and should be embodied in whatever bill is passed."

The Argus-Leader's Pierre correspondent outlines the amazingly loose methods which have prevailed in the treasurer's office—a looseness almost as astounding as the defalcation itself. The legislature should lose no time in amending the law so as to give the state absolute protection in the future. The state treasurer should be paid a sufficient salary and the state should get whatever profit accrues from interest on the state deposits. Mr. Myers' suggestion as to the selection by the state of depository banks and the keeping of a double set of books by which the auditor and treasurer could check each other is good and should be embodied in whatever bill is passed."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of March 19, 1895, appears the following:

"Brother Buchanan feels quite sure that the editor of the Blade will be in line by the time the next republican state convention is held. We feel equally sure that we shall be supporting republican principles, but not the men who have betrayed the people this winter.—Letcher Blade."

"Well, what are the republican principles so far as South Dakota is concerned? Tell us what the republican party stands for distinctly in this state. And also tell us what principles are good for if the party leaders do not carry them out."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of March 28, 1895, appears the following:

"The Letcher Blade makes note of the fact that the republican papers of the state have refused to pay the usual compliment to the late legislature, and adds: 'It is noticeable that the men who were the most potent factors in their election are disgusted with their record and have put them on the black list.' The Blade may, for the Blade is manly and noticeably fearless. But for the most of the others we have not so much to say. When the time comes, they will defend the old promises, breakers, or boom a new set with as much fervency as ever. It seems to us pretty clear that the people will never get a good fair show in South Dakota until the republican party, owned by a choice little regency, is given a thorough and historic drubbing."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of March 19, 1895, appears the following:

"The crippled condition of the state treasury did not prevent the legislature from remaining in session until the last moment permitted by law. It is always so much more pleasant to economize on someone else's salary, you know.—Chamberlain Democrat."

RAILROAD LEGISLATION.

The record on the railroad question is as dark as Egypt. It is so bad that even in a political campaign our citizens almost shrink from reference to it. The Argus-Leader has written the record with all its ugly pictures, but is now striving to put the same men in power who throttled the will of the people on this question. It is thoroughly well known by the voters of the state that when the railroad bill was before the last legislature Senator Pettigrew wired from Washington to the members of

the legislature at Pierre as follows: "I believe that the legislature should redeem the promises made in the Yankton platform on the question of railroad legislation." Right then and there the railroad lobby at Pierre swore vengeance on Senator Pettigrew, threatened him with all sorts of evil things, and then and there a great breach in the republican party in the state commenced. These same men are fighting him today and seeking to destroy his power and influence, and now asking that they shall be returned to power. They have a railroad attorney as national committeeman in the state; a railroad attorney as state committeeman, and railroad attorneys at Huron, Watertown, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, in the Black Hills and other points who are absolutely the controllers and directors of this campaign and hope that the people will really believe that the promises which they are making now will be kept and they will forget the broken promises of two years ago. The Argus-Leader says in its editorials below: "The people were gulled two years ago by this outfit, will they be gulled this time?" Read what it said:

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of February 23, 1895, appears the following:

"The Sioux Falls Press says the republican party in South Dakota is going to have in 1896, 'about all the load it can carry.' Taylor, Ruth, Myers, investigating committee, broken promises on the road question—well we agree with the Press. But if the party comes to the front with a brand new assortment of seductive promises there are probably enough gullible people in the state to float the thing for a few years longer. But only for a short time for you can't fool all the people all the time."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of February 26, 1895, appears the following:

"Of the eighty-three members of the house only eighteen were present yesterday who favored the Wheeler bill, which was quietly and undramatically killed. The republicans, however, cannot also kill the bill's ghost, which will fit about the state two years from last fall. The pale phantom will rise up at many a republican mass meeting to send terror into the knees and to blanch the faces of the promise-breakers."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of February 28, 1895, appears the following:

"If the republican platform adopted at Yankton did not promise some such legislation as that contemplated by the Wheeler bill, how comes it that such men as Senator Pettigrew, and such papers as the Sioux Falls Press, and the Yankton Press, so believed and so stated, and now admit that the legislature has broken faith with the people?"

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of February 21, 1895, appears the following:

"Consistency, is it, you are after? Did you not hear the republicans shouting for regulation of railroads? A bill modeled in harmony with the republican platform was introduced and is being slowly strangled to death by the republican committee named by a republican presiding officer. When it is reported it will be killed by republican members, under the hypnotic power of W. B. Sterling, temporary chairman of the last republican state convention, and a candidate for the United States senate and serious consideration. The republican papers should not stir up this question of consistency."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of January 29, 1895, appears the following:

"We hope that the friends of the railroad bill introduced by Representative Wheeler of this county will not be discouraged by the report everywhere current that the bill stands no chance of passage, but that they will crowd it to an early and serious consideration. We think altogether likely that the bill will be voted down, but the Argus-Leader for one wishes a list of those who vote against it, for future use. We dare say every republican member of the legislature promised his constituents that he would vote for a reasonable and just measure regulating the railroads. There is no denying the fact that the Wheeler bill is such a measure. It is important that these members be forced to record themselves on this question in one way or the other and to keep or violate their promise openly and above board. The bill should be passed or voted down, and not pigeon-holed to death."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of February 20th, 1895, appears the following:

"The Argus-Leader has simply this to say. The present legislature is not the last which will assemble in South Dakota, and the republican party does not owe in fee simple the people of the state. There is going to be a political eruption some day which will blow into obscurity the party which has for years broken every material promise it has made, and which has sold out its birth right for a mess of pottage. When that time shall come, the railroads which have robbed the people and attempted to injure the business of those who tried to secure justice, will do well to get as reasonable and fair a measure as this very same Wheeler bill. The Argus-Leader shall at no time be tempted into the advocacy of any measure which is not just and equitable and fair. But there are many people who will catch the contagion of revenge, and will make an effort to improve on the example set by the railroads. Revenge is a double-edged sword, and it is a dangerous plaything."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of January 29, 1895, appears the following:

WHAT THEY PROMISED.
"At the last republican state convention held in Yankton August 23, 1894, the following plank was placed in the platform, without a dissenting vote:
"We consider it the duty of every patriotic citizen to foster, patronize and encourage the home interests of our young and growing state, in agriculture, mining, manufacturing and commercial—and it is the duty of the state government to throw around them such laws as will insure fair and reason-

able protection. The transportation companies and these interests are so interlocked that we demand of our legislature that the railway commission shall be dignified with promptly introduced to protect such interests against unjust discriminations by such transportation companies."

"In the campaign the candidates and their champions promised the people that if a republican legislature was elected, a fair restrictive railroad law would be passed, protecting the shippers and producers of the state against the unjust discriminations which have prevailed. Many of the candidates signed an explicit pledge promising their warm support of a reasonable and fair railroad measure. The people of the state were more interested in this than in the senatorial question. They believed the republican promises, made in platform and on the stump, and elected a legislature which is practically a republican state convention. A good bill carefully drawn by able and fair minded lawyers, was promptly introduced to protect the shippers and producers of the state. It has repeatedly been before the republican railroad committee and now the report comes from Pierre that the committee will report it without recommendation, and that in all probability no law on this subject will be passed at the present session."

"The republicans now say that South Dakota is not 'ripe' for a railroad law. Why didn't the republican platform frankly declare then, that in the view of the republican party, railroad legislation at this time would be unwise? Why did not the candidates talk this way on the stump? Why did they sign pledges promising to support a fair and reasonable railroad measure? Is South Dakota any less 'ripe' than during the last campaign? And will the state which is being defrauded every day by unjust and monstrous discriminations be apt to be in any better shape for such a law two years hence than now? The fact seems to be that this plank in the platform was simply a play to the galleries. It was only a vote-catcher and was not intended to be taken seriously. It was a great thing to howl about in the campaign but just as good a thing to drop after the election certificates were issued."

"We submit that the republicans cannot thus afford to betray the people. They have passed the absolute and unqualified trust and there will be a day of reckoning unless it is redeemed."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of September 29, 1894, appears the following:

"The interest of the railroads lies in the election of the republican ticket in South Dakota. This is clearly shown by the fact that the republican candidates, speakers and committees are liberally supplied with passes, as well as cash help, while the workers of the opposition are denied the same. The interest of the people in the coming legislature is directly antagonistic to that of the roads. And the people may be expected to vote for their own interest."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of October 25, 1894, appears the following:

"Mr. William B. Sterling, who is drawing a salary of \$2,000 as attorney for the Northwestern railroad, came to Sioux Falls to urge the election of the republican legislative ticket. It will be remembered that Mr. Sterling two years ago headed the railroad lobby at Pierre which successfully opposed any attempt to destroy the injustice of railroad management in this state. His anxiety to secure a republican legislature may be accounted for by the fact that he will again be at Pierre as the chief lobbyist of the roads. This is a pointer which should cause those people who desire the abolition of the railroad extortions to vote against the republican legislative ticket."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of January 17, 1895, appears the following:

ARE REPUBLICANS TO BLAME.
"The Press seems to be terribly afraid lest the people of the state should blame the republican party for the defalcation of Mr. Taylor, and proves nicely by a theoretical argument that the party is not to blame."

"Well, let's see. It was a republican legislature which failed to pass a decent law touching the deposit of state funds. The bond of the treasurer was approved by republican officers and passed upon by a republican attorney-general. We are now informed that there are probably technical irregularities in the bond which will invalidate it. The treasurer was 'examined' by a republican examiner, appointed by a republican governor, at the request of a republican legislator. The republican commissioner of school lands violated the law, and through that violation resulted a loss of \$90,000 to the schools, and a republican governor sat by and sucked his thumb while this violation was going on. Nobody but republican officers or republican appointees have had anything to do with it, and no restrictions have been made except those imposed by republican legislators. To be sure, the republican party has no plank in its platform favoring embezzlement nor will it in its next state convention probably pass a resolution endorsing Mr. Taylor's act, nor those of Maj. Ruth and Mr. Myers. But the whole transaction is by republicans, under republican laws and under the noses of a republican administration."

"If the party escapes criticism and punishment at the hands of the people, its management will have to be bigger genius than Mr. Taylor himself."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of February 18th, 1895, appears the following:

"Judge Burt of Huron, who pleaded the cause of the railroads at Pierre held that the republican platform did not promise a railroad law. He goes on to show, in a technical and fine spun argument, that the platform as adopted at Yankton did not contain any such promise. The republican party editor in the state put no such interpretation on the platform, and that even Senator Pettigrew himself lays on the legislature the charge of breaking faith with the people. Is it to come to this—that the republicans are not only going to break their promises but are going to deny even that they made any promises?"

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of February 11, 1895, appears the following:

"The republicans promised the people to enlarge the powers of the railway commission. Instead of doing that it is more probable that the commission will be abolished. This is about as near an observance of the promises as we had expected."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of February 9, 1895, appears the following:

"We do not need additional railroads more than we did last summer, when the republicans promised us a just railroad law. And the republicans cannot make that argument before the people. The only thing for them to do if they intend to default upon their promises is to boldly admit that they lied to the people last summer and to laconically ask them what they are going to do about it. The people are not entirely unaccustomed to being lied to and in fact we are inclined to think from the course of political history in this state that they rather enjoy it."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of September 21, 1894, appears the following:

"The republican nominees for railroad commissioners are perfectly agreeable to the railroads. Does any one believe that if elected they would bring about any reforms, lift any of the burdens from the people's backs? Two of the nominees are now serving. Have they done anything for the shippers? Have they made a thorough investigation of the extortions, discriminations, and refusal of promised conveniences and shown to the people what new laws are necessary to curb the corporations? Have they in fact done anything but draw their salaries and distribute passes to their friends?"

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader, under date of February 8, 1895, appears the following:

"A Sioux Falls man who has been at Pierre says the railroad lobby daily issues from twenty-five to fifty free passes. He says that not one man in two who goes to Pierre pays his fare, and not one in ten who comes away buys a ticket. 'All you need to do to get a pass,' he says, 'is to make your wants known and you will speedily be accommodated.'"

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of February 8, 1895, appears the following:

"At the risk of being impertinent the Argus-Leader would again recall to the Republicans in the legislature that the last platform promised a just and reasonable railroad law—just such a one as the Wheeler bill, if enacted into law, would be."

In the editorial columns of the Argus-Leader under date of February 7, 1895, appears the following:

"W. B. Sterling of Huron was temporary chairman of the late republican state convention which adopted a stident plank in its platform calling for the passage of a law regulating the railroads. Mr. Sterling is now at Pierre lobbying against the enactment of the railroad law promised by the convention. Two years from last summer he will be at the republican convention favoring a similar plank and two years from now he will be at Pierre seeing that the promises are broken. He is Dr. Jekyll in convention time and Mr. Hyde in the platform calling for the passage of a law regulating the railroads. Mr. Sterling is now at Pierre lobbying against the enactment of the railroad law promised by the convention. Two years from last summer he will be at the republican convention favoring a similar plank and two years from now he will be at Pierre seeing that the promises are broken. 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