

The Farmers Leader

BY ARTHUR LINN.

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When Hon. Andrew E. Lee of Vermillion, was named by the People's party as its candidate for governor of South Dakota, he stated that he was not an orator nor skilled in the art of dress parade, but if elected he would give the state a business administration such as had made his private business a success. The people elected him. He has been in office about fourteen months and a review of his work must satisfy every true and impartial citizen that Gov. Lee has been true to his promise. He had scarcely been declared elected when Senator Kyle demanded that Gov. Lee should use the patronage of his office as a means of electing the senator. This demand impressed Gov. Lee at once as not business, but the worst of spoils politics. He at once understood that such political manipulation was destructive of the free choice of the legislature and reduced the contest for the senatorship into purchasing the legislature by the patronage of the executive. He flatly declined to use the patronage of his office and by so doing incurred the bitter enmity of Kyle and his adherents. The very fact that Kyle made such a demand satisfied Gov. Lee that Kyle was not a fit man to represent the great people of this state in the senate of the United States. He used all his personal influence to save the state from the disgrace of Kyleism and would have succeeded were it not that Republicans, recognizing that Kyle was always open to negotiations, bought him and sent him to Washington, the representative of no party and the personification of treachery in politics. The state had been robbed and disgraced by its treasurer, Taylor, and the robbery was made possible by Gov. Sheldon's neglect and failure to perform the duties imposed on him by law in seeing that Taylor accounted fully for all funds coming into his hands for the state. Gov. Lee was determined to be guilty of no such failure in the performance of his duty. The law made it his duty to certify that all funds were accounted for and his business experience taught him that the only accurate way to do this was to require the funds to be produced. He met determined opposition. Even the attorney general, the law officer provided by the constitution for his advisor, advised against it. Gov. Lee was not to be swerved from his duty. He required the funds to be counted, actually counted them himself, found them correct and certified to the fact that he knew to be true. If such a course had been pursued by his predecessor no such robbery as Taylor's would have been possible and the robbery of the state prevented. Gov. Lee informed himself that the insurance department in the auditor's office had been used as a fence for robbery and extortion. His business ability recognized the only way to destroy this nest of corruption was to separate the insurance department from the auditor's office. He favored this being done. It was done by the legislature and the office of insurance commissioner created. Gov. Lee at once requested the state examiner to examine the books of the auditor's office and the examination not only showed that Hipple and Mayhew were defaulters to the state in large amounts, but also that the office had been used as a means of scandalously extorting large amounts from the various insurance companies doing business in the state and had disgraced the state. Gov. Lee demanded the prompt and vigorous prosecution of Hipple, Mayhew and Anderson. Again the attorney general failed him but Gov. Lee was not to be balked in his determination to see that the state was honestly and uprightly governed. He at once personally employed counsel, had these faulty officers arrested, compelled them to turn large amounts into the state treasury and Mayhew only escaped a criminal conviction by a technical construction of the law, which, if it had been liberally construed would have vindicated an outraged people. The railroads in this state contended that for the purposes of fixing rates for the people to pay, their property was worth \$15,000 per mile and Gov. Lee contended that if such valuation was true for one purpose it was business to apply it for the purpose of taxation. The state assessment board, of which he was a member, were all Republicans, except himself and the attorney general. Again the attorney general and the Republicans joined and fixed a valuation for taxation purposes far below the one fixed by the railroads, for rate fixing purpose a glaring injustice. The railroads of the state refused to obey the law and secured an injunction from the federal court restraining the commission. The funds provided to enforce the law was exhausted and the power of the state would have been defied and the state rendered powerless were it not for the lone act of the governor in personally providing the funds to uphold the railroad commission and the dignity of the state. He again exhibited his business sagacity and ability. Gov. Lee appointed an insurance commissioner as the legislature provided and clearly informed his appointee, Mr. Kipp, that the office should be conducted in harmony with that of the administration on the lines of honesty and economy. No sooner had Kipp qualified than he arrogated to himself a personal policy of conducting the office and adopted one that would be highly profitable to himself, adopted the very policy with which Hipple and Mayhew had disgraced the state. Gov. Lee demanded that this extortion policy be changed. Kipp defied him and defended the very robber policy which Gov. Lee was fighting. The business man knew no party lines when conducting the state's business. He satisfied himself that wrong had been done by Kipp and his employees, that the insurance companies doing business in the state were unjustly preyed upon. The legislature had empowered the governor to remove the insurance commissioners. Gov. Lee hesitated not a moment to exercise the power. He removed Kipp at once. Kipp again defied the governor. The attorney general again failed the governor. Gov. Lee again showed the material of which he is made. He employed counsel, took the matter to the supreme court and vindicated the dignity of his office and his fidelity to honesty and clean government by an unanimous decision of the highest court in the state. By the removal of Kipp the people have been assured that in the performance of his duty no personal effort or sacrifice will be spared and that he will go to the very limit of his power in exacting honesty and integrity in the performance of public duty. Every public servant has been taught the lesson that booting, extortion and unjust personal profit from public offices will not be tolerated. That even in opposition to the adverse interests of men in his own party Gov. Lee will do his duty. Gov. Lee's vigorous business methods and fearless determination has done more to create confidence in the possibility of conducting the state government honestly than anything that has ever been done in this state. Every honest man cannot fail to recognize the fact that Gov. Lee is a fearless business man and his courage and ability is just what this state needs to bring the state government to the purity deserved by the people, and every lover of honest government can not fail to be impressed with the fact that the precedents established by Gov. Lee will be lighthouses on the way for years to come as to what is required of the executive. He has proved himself to be able, fearless and honest, just the man the people need and when the ballots are counted next fall it will be found that the overwhelming verdict of the people will be, well done good and faithful servant, we can not dispense with such services as yours.

The fraudulent manner in which Anderson's Kipp distributed insurance statements was evidence of a deal, because some papers got more than they were entitled to while others got none. The LEADER finds no fault with any Populist editor for being in good luck if he came by such luck honestly. The system practiced by Kipp was a cunning game, but Kipp never originated such a scheme. The deal was put up in Sioux Falls and Kipp did as Anderson and Grigsby told him. Mr. Grigsby has played a losing game since January 1897, and just why he went lack on every friend he had in the Populist party is past finding out unless he was owned somewhere else. Mr. Grigsby has been an active backer of Kipp and both have got their medicine from the supreme court.

Spaniards sunk the battle ship Maine, have imprisoned, killed and insulted the American Nation to accept the final insult and declaration of war by blowing up the Maine. These things have been going on for three years at our very doors, and when the final act of treachery took place, we find a great government almost unprepared for war, and men hunting for an excuse for spanish treachery. Where is the spirit of '76?

When our war with Spain is over, and loss figured up, it will be found that the Klondike war of conquest and discovery will have cost as much money and greater loss of life than a war with Spain.

All honor to Governor Lee for the glorious results he accomplished in purging the Populist party of the blackest hearted traitor who was ever appointed to a responsible office by the governor.

The Sioux Falls Journal can continue its abuse of Gov. Lee. The abuse of such a paper will make friends for the man abused. Whoop'er up Mark. A newspaper hog is the meanest kind of a porker.

The Populists up in Campbell county ought to send Kipp over the river to join the Indians.

Nash even accused Kipp of being a thief. Wonder what Kipp thinks of Nash?

Anderson-Kipp insurance agents. Reference Bob Stewart.

Republican papers are loud in their boasting that Kipp, the traitor, has secured many pledges of support for himself, we presume, from Populist editors, if he (Kipp) gave them an undue number of statements to publish. The LEADER knows nothing of this one way or the other. Populist editors were entitled to the patronage of the office Kipp dishonored, and if Kipp demanded any pledges from these editors he was playing a contemptible game of deception. The LEADER has heard that Kipp demanded editors to support him in case he gave them insurance statements. Just what Kipp wanted support for we can't imagine, unless he wanted to run for attorney general next fall. Kipp's chief aim, we presume, after turning traitor, was to do all he could to force Populist editors to throw their support to some man for governor other than Gov. Lee. Of course Kipp and his so called Populist advisor and his Republican masters at Pierre, were very anxious to get Honest Andy Lee out of the way, because thieves, boot-lers and traitors have no show to ply their disgraceful profession in this state while Andrew E. Lee is governor. It must have been for this purpose that Kipp demanded pledges. He may have caught some of the boys, and now he will hold a club over their heads. If any Populist editor was thus trapped he ought to jump onto Kipp with both feet. Kipp knew that Governor Lee would sooner or later discover his friends and kick him out of office, and in advance of this action Kipp had the brazen impudence to set himself up as a little dictator. The little ass didn't seem to realize that Hipple's Anderson had run him into a skunk hole and left him there, after using him to betray his trust and create the impression that a Populist insurance commissioner was just as rotten as a Republican. Hipple's Anderson worked like a Turk to run Kipp into a trap, because he was guilty of extortion and robbery and wanted the Populist outfit to be equally guilty. It was a slick game Hipple's Anderson played. He sized Kipp up for a mush head and made no mistake. Kipp trained with the Republican gang at Pierre and they used Kipp to the queen's taste. Then this gang told Kipp that Gov. Lee couldn't remove him, and the little fool got saucy and began to bulldoze Populist editors into giving him pledges for support. This support Kipp asked for was for base and cowardly purposes, and Kipp got no pledges only through misrepresentation and fraud. If any Populist editor was thus caught, he should promptly expose the deal. The supreme court disposed of Kipp and his traitor friends in one dose, and some of those Republican ducks won't be as rich as they expected.

Senator Frye, and Congressmen Reed and Boutelle all of Maine, are by their action opposed to anything that would wipe out the insult to the gallant ship named in honor of their state. Boutelle of Maine, is opposed to any extra preparation for war until war is declared. He opposed enlistments for the navy because he favors peace at any price and would accept a money consideration for the loss of sailors and vessel. Thank God there are few Congressmen like Boutelle, Reed and Frye. Did DeLome fix these men before he was kicked out of the country.

Governor Lee received many letters and telegrams from leading Populists of the state, congratulating him on the stand he took when he removed Kipp for malfeasance in office. This was before the case came before the supreme court. These men did not consider Kipp or his office. They upheld the governor for exposing fraud in his own party. Every Populist in the state admires Gov. Lee for his manhood and courage.

The LEADER denounced Kipp as a scoundrel a week before the supreme court decided the case. The evidence produced by Kipp himself proved he was a robber, and this was sufficient for the LEADER, whether Kipp was kicked out or he held on. The LEADER editor is not for sale. He believes in honesty and justice, and determined to expose traitor Kipp without regard to what the action of the supreme court might be.

The Minneapolis Tribune has a few first class liars as correspondents in this state. They love untruth better than truth and are without honor. One of them is recognized as the "Champion liar" at Sioux Falls, and this has no reference to Mr. Tomlinson either.

Call it co-operative or union or popocrat or silvercrat or any other name you please, Mr. Republican, but the people are going to get together just the same and clean out Mark Hanna Republicanism in this state.

Let's see. Nash met Crawford then he supported him for congress, and Crawford was the only Republican state officer who did not carry Lincoln county in 1896. What is such support worth?

More money will be spent by men going to Alaska this year than will be brought out next year.

This week we are called upon to chronicle the death of Dr. J. I. Taylor. After an experience of twenty years as publisher, this is one of the saddest duties we have ever been called upon to perform. For nearly thirty years we have known Dr. Taylor, and like all others, the more we knew him, the more we loved him. It was at an early hour last Friday morning, a beautiful winter morning, as the moon was still shedding her calm and mellow light upon the quiet earth, and the stars, like sentinels, were watching over the serene beauty and dreamy slumber of nature, preparing to fade from view, giving place to the shining sun, when Dr. J. I. Taylor, loved by all who ever knew him, was called to The Better Land. Grief-stricken friends were standing near the couch of his dying relative and neighbor. They had for weeks been dutiful to all wants, but now, despite their untiring efforts, they realized that the final hour had come, that the disease was rapidly carrying the good man toward the gulf of death. Dr. Taylor was a good man, a true friend, a faithful, judicious, forbearing, sympathetic, honest man. To him life never seemed unworthy the living. With him hope was never crushed. To him the world never seemed to be hung with the gloom of mourning. To him the sun was never so dimmed in the heavens but what he could find a star with which to roll away the clouds. He was a man who made the world better and brighter by living in it. Deceased was born at Argyle, Washington county, New York, September 11th, 1824. Was educated at Argyle academy and graduated from the Cleveland Medical College. In 1850 came to Wisconsin, and in 1851 married Miss Caroline Williams, at Spring Prairie, Wisconsin. In 1852 he located at Lansing, Iowa, where he practiced medicine with remarkable success for twenty-eight years. At the close of the war he purchased the Lansing, Iowa, Chronicle, which under his management and editorship soon became a power in political and social affairs. In 1860 was made a Mason and soon became prominent in Masonic circles. At the time of his death was a Knight Templar, and was also identified with Silver Star lodge, No. 4, of Canton, S. D. For many years he has been a member of the Episcopal church. In 1880 he moved to Canton, S. D., where he practiced medicine for a time but his health would not allow him to continue in active practice. He then accepted the position as general agent for the Oskaloosa, Iowa, Masonic Life Insurance Company, a position he held until within the past two years. Dr. Taylor and wife came to Claremont last November to spend the winter with their children. Death was caused from chronic dyspepsia and anemia of the blood. He leaves a wife and four children, two sons and two daughters. J. I. Taylor, Jr., Mrs. A. Hinckley and Mrs. B. F. Hood, all of Claremont; the oldest son, James E., resides at Victoria, Mexico. At 5 o'clock, p. m., Friday, a short service was held at the home of Mrs. Hinckley, Revs. D. A. Tawney and J. F. VanCamp officiating, after which the remains were taken to Viroqua, Wis., for burial being accompanied by the bereaved widow, son J. I. Taylor, and Mrs. Hinckley. The burial occurred Sunday, Feb. 27 the Masonic lodge of Viroqua conducting the ceremony, laying their brother, at rest in the Viroqua cemetery. There may be the remains of our friend and loved one repose, and on the grassy mound the tears of loving friends will fall, and affection cast the first flowers of spring and the last of autumn, and let us treasure and hold fast to the faith that "we shall meet again." Death is a mystery, and yet we believe it is a natural process, and the gateway to another world. Over the cable which spans the abyss between heaven and earth, comes the message of love: "We shall meet again, after life's brief day, in the morning of a new life, to which this will be as a dream."—Claremont (Minn.) Leader.

The sentiment of the Canton township Populists as we gather it from resolutions published in this issue is that they believe the most successful manner in which to conduct the coming state and county election is to have but one ticket in the field and that the People's party ticket. That all persons who will join the People's party in caucus and convention shall be represented on the ticket. But they are opposed to tickets made up by several parties in separate conventions. That all reformers should unite in one line of battle irrespective of differences on minor questions and with one leadership, one flag and one management meet the Republican gold standard boodle party of the state. Union of all reformers is what is necessary and what the interests of good government require. This is plainly evident from these resolutions and all that is demanded is one ticket in the field composed of all who join with the People's party.

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