

BUFFALO COUNTY

Fusionists Suffer Loss of Over a Thousand Votes in Six Years to Republicans Sixty

Buffalo county is a conspicuous example of a great fusion loss in the past six years with no corresponding republican gain in actual votes, whether view from a comparison of the votes cast for the head of the state ticket or from an average of the votes cast for state officers.

FOR HEAD OF STATE TICKET.

	Fusion.	Rep.	
1896, governor.....	2,495	1,697	F798
1897, judge.....	2,154	1,617	F537
1899, judge.....	2,194	1,560	F634
1900, governor.....	2,075	1,875	F200
1901, judge.....	1,479	1,702	R223
1902, governor.....	1,426	1,686	R260

From a 798 plurality for Holcomb in 1896 to a 260 plurality for Mickey in 1902, means a net fusion loss (or republican gain) of 1,058. 4,192 men voted for the two leading candidates for governor in 1896; but only 3,112 so voted in 1902—a loss of 1,080 votes. Mickey's vote was 11 less than MacColl's; Thompson's, 1,069 less than Holcomb's. Unless the voting population of Buffalo has been reduced very materially in the last six years, it is evident that the republican victory in Buffalo is the result of nothing less than the fusion stay-at-home vote. Whether this apathy has been caused by populist opposition to fusion, or because of the effectiveness of the republican gospel of "let well enough alone," is a matter which can best be told by Buffalo county residents.

But, it may be urged, both Holcomb and Thompson were stronger than their ticket, while MacColl and Mickey both ran behind theirs. So let us take an average of the votes cast for the state ticket and see what story that will tell:

AVERAGE FOR STATE TICKET.

	Fusion.	Rep.	
1896, Eleven.....	2,381	1,753	F628
1897, Three.....	2,087	1,665	F422
1899, Three.....	2,069	1,582	F487
1901, Three.....	1,430	1,759	R329
1902, Eight.....	1,364	1,696	R332

An average fusion plurality of 628 has in six years changed to a republican plurality of 332—a fusion loss of 960. This was caused by an actual average loss of 1,017 fusion votes as against a republican loss of 57. The result is substantially as before, showing that the republican strength has not fluctuated materially in six years, while the fusionists have lost at least a thousand.

Whatever may have been the experience of the people of Buffalo county with fusion county officers, and for the nonce leaving the question of "let well enough alone" out of the question, let us take up one matter which affects that county and see whether there was any good reason why a thousand populists and democrats in that county ought to prefer republican to fusion state government.

The assessment rolls of Buffalo county for a number of years are as follows:

1889—	
509,493 acres farm land.....	\$1,132,444
17,808 city and village lots.....	907,054
67.3 miles railroad.....	610,210
All other property.....	932,546
Total	\$3,582,254
1891—	
477,759 acres farm land.....	\$1,105,733
22,095 city and village lots.....	875,963
107.9 miles railroad.....	737,761
All other property.....	677,799
Total	\$3,397,256
1893—	
554,375 acres farm land.....	\$1,312,865
21,559 city and village lots.....	826,471
107.9 miles railroad.....	706,317
All other property.....	729,587
Total	\$3,575,239
1895—	
563,316 acres farm land.....	\$1,295,309
21,521 city and village lots.....	779,759
107.9 miles railroad.....	628,030
All other property.....	417,284
Total	\$3,120,382
1900—	
568,940 acres farm land.....	\$1,135,090
20,551 city and village lots.....	531,474
107.9 miles railroad.....	642,333
All other property.....	455,035
Total	\$2,763,932

The proportion of taxes borne by these four items, given in percentages in nearest round numbers, is as follows:

	1889.	1891.	1893.	1895.	1900
Farm lands.....	32	33	37	42	41
City lots.....	25	26	23	25	19
R. R.....	17	22	20	20	23
All other.....	26	19	20	13	17

So far as concerns the action of the fusion state board of equalization, it is

evident that the railroad assessment of 1900 was higher relatively—although not absolutely so—than that of either 1891, 1893, or 1895, made by republican boards. The mileage in 1889 was 40 miles less than the years since, and, of course, no fair comparison can be made with the succeeding years without too many figures.

The differences between farm lands and city lots in the percentage of taxes paid varies widely: 22 per cent in 1900, 17 in 1895, 14 in 1893, and 7 in both 1891 and 1889. It is probable that actual values of city property went down relatively in about that degree, and to a great extent the collapse of Kearney's "boom" may be charged to the railroads. After all the various manufacturing enterprises had been built, which caused the boom, railroad discriminations in freight rates rendered it impossible for them to prosper. The cotton mill at Kearney could sell a good quality of "domestic" a fraction of a cent a yard cheaper than the same quality could be bought at Lowell; but strange to say, the Lowell goods could be shipped clear from Massachusetts and laid down 50 miles out of Lincoln at so much cheaper freight rate that the merchants of Nebraska were compelled to buy the eastern goods.

Now that the railroads have decided on a general raise in freight rates, the 1,686 Buffalo county electors who voted for Mickey and the thousand and over who did not vote, because they wanted to "let well enough alone" in the matter of railroad taxation, as well as the 1,426 who voted for Thompson, will be called upon to help pay for the \$30,000 spent in publishing tax bulletins and the thousands and thousands of free rides given republican politicians engaged in preaching the gospel of contentment.

How They Shear Them

W. J. Ghent, in his book, "Our Benevolent Feudalism," comments on the widespread spirit of gambling which has fastened itself upon the American people. He believes that millions of people knowingly vote to continue the present inequitable system in the vain hope that they may some time be one of the ones to "beat the other fellow's game." A single instance will show the elaborate means taken to educate the people up to the idea of getting something for nothing. The following letter was mailed to thousands of small business men in Nebraska under date of November 7, 1902:

"A short time since we mailed you our booklet advising the purchase of December corn. At the time we mailed this booklet December corn was quoted on the Chicago market at 43 cents. Today the market price is 51 cents. An investment made then would now show eight hundred per cent profit to date. Can you find any other safe investment in America which will return any such profit? We think not.

"If you have any spare money, from \$25 to \$500, invest it in the purchase of corn for December delivery, and if your investment is properly managed your profits will be enormous.

"For the past year we have devoted our time, our resources and our money exclusively to obtaining every bit of information possible regarding the corn situation. Last winter we, in the face of a falling market, predicted 75-cent corn for July. July corn sold as high as 90 cents, and such of our customers as took our advice made enormous profits.

"Before the expiration of the July option our every energy was put forth so find out the true situation of corn for September and December deliveries, and, on information so obtained, we predicted 65-cent corn for September. Twice since then has September corn sold above 65 cents. We now believe that December corn will sell at or above the price July corn sold for—our reasons being that there is little or no old corn left in the country, not enough for manufacturing purposes alone for more than sixty days; and James Patton with his following and the Armour crowd of Chicago, with their friends in that city, New York and St. Louis, have since July bought over thirty millions of bushels of corn to be delivered to them in December. Again to repeat, there is no old corn in the country to speak of, and these gentlemen who now hold corn bought to be delivered to them in December may put the price to any figure they wish. This is why we tell you to buy December corn. Buy all you can carry, and buy it at once."

The Cancer Cut Out

Last summer The Independent published a communication from Hon. Jay W. Forrest, Albany, N. Y., under the heading, "The Cancer of Democracy," in which David Bennett Hill

Home Seekers' Excursion

On Dec. 2nd and 16th, 1902, the Burlington will sell Homeseekers' Tickets at one fare, plus \$2.00 to all points in Indian and Oklahoma Territories and Texas, and many points in Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico.



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came in for a deserved trouncing. Mr. Forrest was one of the officers in the liberal democratic organization and circulated a reprint of "The Cancer of Democracy" as a campaign document. Under date of November 6, 1902, Mr. Forrest mails The Independent a second document entitled "The Cancer Cut Out; Operation Performed by the Democratic Party," in which the vote in New York is analyzed and shows that David B. Hill has lost his cunning.

For example, the vote in Greater New York shows an actual democratic gain of 8,171 votes, while the republican loss was 69,531. Mr. Forrest compares the results in 1898 with the present year. The results show what it cost to swap the Kansas City platform for an insincere socialistic plank:

1898—The democrats lost the following counties:

Clinton county by.....	24
Columbia county by.....	287
Greene county by.....	47
Putnam county by.....	250
Seneca county by.....	16

1902—With Hill running things the democrats lost—

Clinton county by.....	4000
Columbia county by.....	1363
Greene county by.....	550
Putnam county by.....	850
Seneca county by.....	500

1898—The democrats carried the following counties:

Albany county by.....	925
Chemung county by.....	102
Rensselaer county by.....	604

1902—With Hill running things the democrats lost—

Albany county by.....	6586
Chemung county by.....	700
Rensselaer county by.....	2729

"Shades of good old Thomas Jefferson," says Mr. Forrest, "need or can one make words take the place of these figures. Only those who can remember the days of the Greeley campaign can remember anything like them. The democracy was born almost with the republic; it has survived men and causes, and will survive this apparent black eye. The state is like Barkis, it is ready and willing; let those who would lead push forward and assert democratic manhood and push to the rear the discredited, and the voters will rally to them and take the republican citadel."

Illinois Central Excursions

- 1—Jacksonville, Fla., \$52.50.
- 1—Thomasville, Ga., \$48.80.
- 1—New Orleans, La., \$43.00.
- 1—Vicksburg, Miss., \$38.00.
- 1—Hammond, La., \$43.00.
- 1—Daytona, Fla., \$59.10.
- 1—Tampa, Fla., \$65.20.
- 1—Palm Beach, Fla., \$71.50.
- 1—Havana, Cuba, \$106.70.
- 1—Jackson, Miss., \$38.00.
- 1—St. Augustine, Fla., \$55.40.
- 2—Mt. Clements, Mich., \$34.10.

2—French Lick Springs, Ind., \$30.90.
3—Chicago, Ill., \$14.75.

ABOVE RATES ARE FOR ROUND TRIP TICKETS FROM OMAHA, NEB.

Column 1—Tickets on sale daily; return limit June 1, 1902.

Column 2—Tickets on sale daily; return limit 90 days.

Column 3—Tickets on sale November 30, December 1 and 2; return limit December 8.

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Notice to Non-Resident Defendant

In the District Court of Lancaster County, Vera A. Hurley, Plaintiff, vs. Dennis J. Hurley, Defendant.

Dennis J. Hurley, defendant in the above entitled action is hereby notified that on the 18th day of November, 1902, said plaintiff Vera A. Hurley, filed her petition in the District Court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, against the said defendant, the object and prayer of which is to obtain a decree of divorce dissolving the bonds of matrimony between the plaintiff and the defendant on the grounds of willful abandonment and desertion without just cause, for more than two years, last past, and grossly, wantonly and cruelly failing to provide for the wants of the plaintiff.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the twenty-ninth (29th) day of December, 1902.

Dated this 18th day of November, 1902.
VERA A. HURLEY, Plaintiff.
By Horace F. Bishop, her Attorney.

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