

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

ESTABLISHED 1889

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Published Every Thursday
1328 O Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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\$1.00 Per Year
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THE INDEPENDENT,
Lincoln, Neb.

A WARNING

The railroads of Nebraska are making the fight of their lives to retain their grip on the state government as the means of continuing to collect extortionate freight and passenger rates, and to escape just taxation. The Eastern capitalists who own the roads are railroad in Nebraska for what there is in it. Their political agents are required to show results for the princely salaries they are paid. Their work in the past has been done with consummate skill and their positions and incomes are at stake in the contest that is now approaching. Results are what are demanded of them by their employers, and to secure such they are putting forth strenuous efforts.

The railroads know no political principles aside from earnings and dividends. They employ tools to work upon the political bias of their victims and thus disguise their hands, in order to secure maximum results with minimum outlay. The railroad political agents are neither republicans nor democrats other than for railroad purposes, and are both, in proportion as it serves their ends to be such. But, they have in both political parties agents and tools who do their bidding with the utmost servility and feast upon the crumbs from their masters' tables with a canine relish.

Whatever there may be of terror to the railroads in the opposition that is manifesting itself against them in the republican party is due to the dread of its effects in the future, rather than in the present, because the opposition in that party has not yet developed a leadership that need give them any concern. It is true that Senator Sheldon fired one shot that was a ringer and immediately afterwards sank from the public view, while the scattering shots of Norris Brown are too indefinite and meaningless to do him any good or the railroads any harm. To the experienced observer it is evident that the

railroads have matters well in hand so far as the republican party is concerned, and for the present at least apprehend no serious trouble from that quarter.

But, with the democrats the case is different and is causing the railroad political agents no end of trouble. All would be smooth sailing with them if it were not for the candidacy of George W. Berge for the governorship. The marvelous powers as a campaigner demonstrated by Mr. Berge two years ago, when practically single handed and alone, when the democratic leaders generally preferred the security of their cyclone cellars to the exposure to the political elements, he divided the attention of the state with the Roosevelt tidal wave and received 102,568 votes against 51,876 for the democratic candidate for presidency, warns the railroad political agents that the candidacy of Mr. Berge is the only real menace to the interests they represent.

They do not fear, nor do they need to fear the candidacy of any other aspirant for the democratic nomination this year for the reason that, in the first place, the republicans normally have a majority in the state, and in the next place, if Berge is not renominated nothing will suffice to convince from thirty to fifty thousand independent voters in the state that he was not turned down through railroad influence which will prove to be a handicap sufficient to defeat the party. On the other hand the nomination of Mr. Berge will satisfy the voters of the state at large that the democratic convention was free from railroad influence in which case, with a campaign such as Mr. Berge will make, not only will the independent voters be held in line, but thousands of independent republican voters will be drawn to the support of the ticket which will practically insure the election of the entire democratic ticket, including a legislature and United States senator.

What is the secret of the opposition to the renomination of Mr. Berge in the democratic convention? In the first place the opposition, so far as has been discovered, is confined to a very few party manipulators, while the sentiment among the rank and file of democrats in the state is overwhelmingly for Berge. Again we ask what is the secret of this exceedingly small but mysteriously active opposition to the renomination of Mr. Berge by the democrats? The public has not yet been taken into their secret. That which has been given as a reason is but a pretext for opposition, while the real reason is concealed. That we are unable to view this matter differently is because we are unable to relegate the opponents of Mr. Berge's nomination to the shades of a bigotry that is technical and senseless.

The railroads are opposing the nomination of Mr. Berge because they fear the verdict of the people at the polls if given a candidate in whom they have confidence, and whose character and record is unassailable. And, they well know that if they can compass the defeat of Mr. Berge in the democratic convention, that act itself will so discredit the party and disappoint the voters that they can easily

elect a republican governor and legislature.

The republicans in their state convention will give Roosevelt a ringing endorsement, and will undoubtedly nominate Rosewater for the senate, in which case a discredited democratic ticket may expect to receive only a strictly partisan vote which will be found insufficient to elect the state ticket, or a majority of the legislature.

In this connection we desire to warn those who oppose the nomination of Mr. Berge of the true position they thus place themselves in before the people of the state. The railroads are putting forth a strenuous effort, and are leaving no stone unturned to prevent the renomination of Mr. Berge by the democrats. The democrats who are openly opposing his nomination are few in number and over zealous giving a reason for their opposition that is utterly lacking in substance and is too shadowy to constitute a motive for such action by men of normal and average intelligence. Men who are actuated by pure motives should hesitate and give serious thought to a matter like this, involving as it does the success or defeat of the people in their battle for justice against the treason and depotism of railroad government. They should not be influenced by causes that are trivial and shadowy in matters of the highest importance to themselves and their fellows, because in so doing they will invite upon their acts the inevitable verdict of public opinion, which when finally made up is always right and rigid, knowing no charity.

PERSONALITIES VERSUS POLITICAL PARTIES

Two great personalities loom up above all others in our politics—that of Roosevelt and Bryan. A session of congress has just closed that is distinguished from any other in our history as a session devoted to asserting the supremacy of the people over capalistic combinations and individuals occupying certain relations to the public, by placing them under regulation and restrictions necessary to justice and the public good. In all fairness it must be admitted that much good has been accomplished, and the individual is wanting in patriotism who does not rejoice in the progressive steps that have been taken and in the good work that has been done.

There are none so lacking in intelligence as not to know that the credit for what has been done belongs to Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States. He has not done all that he might have done. He has disappointed the people by his shortcomings in ways that are grievous, but only because he has undertaken to do good things that were not expected of him, or of his party, and then failed to meet in full measure the expectations that were kindled in the minds of the people by his own acts. It is known of all men that the president did not have the full sympathy of an individual member of his own political household, and it is doubtful if there were a half dozen republican members of both houses of congress in accord

with him. Yet, with a republican majority of 112 in the house of representatives and of 22 in the senate, President Roosevelt through his own individual initiative forced legislation through an unwilling congress through the relentless application of the whip and spur that his high office gave him. Roosevelt's power is derived from the people, whose will he sought to understand, and in a measure, to comply with. During his first term he incurred the hatred of the politicians of his own party, and won the love of the whole people. His nomination in 1904 was a political necessity with politicians that despised him, but who chose to renominate him rather than go down in defeat themselves. With the people at his back, the federate patronage at his disposal and the loyal assistance of the democrats in congress he has been able to make the politicians of his own party eat a dish of nauseating political crow, and between smothered curses for himself, pronounced the crow good eating.

Roosevelt's success was the result of adopting principles that the populists forced upon the democrats in 1896, and which Bryan stands as the most conspicuous embodiment of in the nation.

When the democratic party in power from 1892 to 1896 demonstrated its utter lack of democratic principles the scales dropped from the

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