Kansas Memory

Peoples Party economy vs. Republican extravagance

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This Peoples Party pamphlet recounts the savings and efficiency of the party in state government during the year of 1897.

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KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

1896.	Coal-mine.	Other resources.	Total earnings.	Expenses.
Febr'y,	$6,310 77	$3,101 81	$9,412 58	$11,009 92
March,	5,827 20	3,118 64	8,945 84	10,865 56
April ..	4,438 96	3,738 47	8,177 43	11,119 62
May ...	2,404 55	3,240 03	5,644 58	9,524 52
June...	1,993 25	3,146 52	5,139 77	17,769 20
July...	2,956 06	3,493 95	6,450 01	12,350 65
August	3,113 93	3,364 20	6,478 13	13,252 81
Totals,	$27,044 72	$23,203 62	$50,248 34	$85,892 28
1897.				
Febr'y,	$9,426 56	$2,636 23	$12,062 79	$11,550 01
March,	10,336 69	3,226 73	13,563 42	13,648 18
April ..	6,804 34	3,741 36	10,545 70	13,429 44
May ...	5,374 01	3,477 41	8,851 42	11,404 74
June...	4,334 60	3,247 73	7,582 33	14,821 71
July...	6,224 89	3,486 92	9,711 81	13,913 33
August	4,484 71	3,473 43	7,958 14	11,746 61
Totals,	$46,985 80	$23,289 81	$70,275 61	$90,514 02

The above is from the reports as made monthly to the board of directors and the state auditor, and does not include any labor outside of the mine or any material, such as stone and brick, furnished by the labor of the institution for permanent improvements.

The value of permanent improvements since February 1, 1897, counting labor, material furnished by the institution, and the cash paid on this account, is as follows:

Flagging and improving laundry.....	$1,161 48
Flagging and improving cap house....	1,078 00
Repairing shops, including pier for machinery	689 76
Repairs in cell-houses for ventilating fans.....	160 30

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New brick and stone smoke-stack, 130 feet high	2,300 00
New elevators in shops	1,200 00
Completing new cell-house	916 00
Wiring and lighting new cell-house	648 00
Locks for new cell-house	400 00
Five ventilating fans for ventilating cell-houses	3,118 83
New dry house	169 00
New hoisting engine	250 00
New wiring for time detector, improving telephones, new water and steam piping, brick machine, and other permanent improvements and new machinery	700 00
Total	$12,791 37

The completion of the new cell-house was necessary in order to have more room and prevent putting two men in one cell, as formerly done, and is a great improvement in sanitary respects, as well as making it more comfortable for the men and improving the discipline. New fans were put in the old cell-houses where there had not been any arrangement for ventilation heretofore, which was a much-needed improvement. The new elevators were also badly needed, as the old ones were practically worthless, and owing to their worn condition had fallen several times, endangering lives.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY.

Earnings in 1896	$50,248 34
Expenditures in 1896	85,892 28
Earnings in 1897	$70,275 61
Expenditures in 1897	90,514 02

Earnings in 1897 over 1896, for the seven months enumerated	$20,027 27
Expenditures in 1897 over 1896	4,621 74
Credit to 1897	$15,405 53
Value of permanent improvements in 1897 in excess of value of same in 1896	10,000 00
Total credit on face of records	$25,405 53
Average number men in prison, 1896	872
Average number men in prison, 1897	874
Number of days' work lost by punishment in 1896	1,033
Number of days' work lost by inmates of wards 2 and 3 (hospital and crank)	2,393
Days lost from both, 1896	3,426
Number days' work lost by punishment in 1897	732
Number days' work lost by inmates of wards 2 and 3 (hospital and crank)	2,188
Days lost from both, 1897	2,920

In addition to the foregoing, the prison has on hand, for future use, at an expense incurred during this period, products of a cash market value of $7,000.

The public is respectfully invited to investigate the foregoing statement.

The Insurance Fight.

In no department of the state government is any greater effort being made to give relief to the people from corporate extortion than is being made in the insurance department. The head of

this department has had a continual fight with the insurance corporations ever since his induction into office. The first important move was the refusal to issue licenses to the three companies which were fighting their legitimate death losses. The superintendent took the position that it was not safe for Kansas people to do business with corporations which fought claims for a long term of years, and in trials in which so many charges of improper use of money were made. Other life companies, which have given evidence of the lack of a desire to do a straight, legitimate business have found Kansas to be an uninviting field. This department has also done good work in breaking up the system of pooling of rates on property insurance, which has been the means of extorting enormous profits from the property owners of the state. The old system of competition in rates is again in vogue, and as a result insurance rates are coming down in many parts of the state. Mutual insurance, which is more in harmony with Populist ideas, receives more encouragement from the present superintendent than from any of his predecessors.

The insurance department has felt the force of federal injunctions frequently. It has had to contend with the enormous wealth of companies made fabulously rich by the collection of extortionate rates from the people, and it has withstood the unmerciful abuse and misrepresentation of the Republican and insurance press of the country. But the superintendent is proving to be more than a match for the entire aggregation, and is, by his fearless action, bringing the insurance corpora-

tions to a realization of the fact that Kansas people have some rights which they are bound to respect. The objective point toward which the work of this department is directed is to secure fair dealing with Kansas people and to prevent the continuation of the collection of excessive rates. While temporary reverses may come, the fight should eventually be won.

This department has collected and turned over to the proper parties, in the last nine months, the sum of $52,753.50, while but $42,031.39 was collected by the Republican incumbent during the whole year of 1896. This indicates that the companies are not being permitted to escape any of their just dues to the state.

Agricultural College Growth.

There are a number of Republican papers in the state, and one in particular, at Manhattan, which assert at every opportunity that the Kansas State Agricultural College is losing students, or has not made gains proportionate to the gains of the past, by reason of the recent reorganization. A few facts taken from the college records show the true situation.

During the past 17 years—that is, during the presidency of George T. Fairchild—the annual increase in attendance was less than 27 students. During the last half dozen years the average annual growth was less than 31. During the presidency of George T. Fairchild there were decreases in attendance in five different years.

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The total attendance of undergraduates for the three terms or the last college year was 688. The assignments reported last year at the first meeting of the faculty were 522. At the corresponding time this year the attendance was 572; that is, 50 above the attendance of last year.

The attendance of undergraduates on Saturday noon, October 2, 1897, was 602; that is:

Preparatory	79
First year	229
Second year	141
Third year	70
Fourth year	81
Special	2
Total	602

The total attendance of postgraduates six years ago was 10, and last year 46. The number of postgraduates enrolled this year is already above this number, though it is not possible to give the number positively, as many postgraduates are not resident, but study by correspondence, and they are not always prompt to obtain positive assignments at the beginning of the year. So far, over 60 have written for work in the different departments or have sent in requests for definite assignments to courses in reading.

These numbers represent facts, and ought to speak for themselves where facts are wanted.

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In Whose Interest Should the Agricultural College be Conducted?

To teach the agricultural and industrial classes to produce wealth is regarded by some as eminently proper and praiseworthy. To teach them, however, to secure their fair share of the wealth they will otherwise wear their lives away in producing is regarded by these persons as highly objectionable.

When we teach some to sow that others may reap, whose interests are we promoting, those of the sower or those of the reaper?

The land-grant colleges, by the terms of the organic act and subsequent acts, exist for the benefit of the producing and not for the benefit of the fleecing classes. The Kansas State Agricultural College under the present administration will be conducted with an eye single to the highest good, first, of the special classes in whose interest it was established, and second, of the state and nation as a whole. To our critics we say, if this be treason, make the most of it.

The more freely certain persons criticize, the more clearly they reveal the fact that their idea of an agricultural and industrial college is an institution existing primarily to raise up a race of Gibeonites—hewers of wood and drawers of water—for those who boast that they "own the country," and will "continue to control it." That such is their idea, we confess that we have all along suspected; now it daily grows more obvious.

Hence, we may understand their aversion to the genuine enlightenment of those who toil. It is

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not so long, in fact, since it was a crime to teach a black worker even to read. We are glad to see our critics emerge from the bushes and show their colors.

Shall the college be conducted in the interest of the producers or of the exploiters.—*The Industrialist* (edited by the Agricultural College faculty).

They Did Not Carry Off the Vaults.

A study of Republican methods in public affairs develops many decidedly sensational things. A case in point is that of the unlawful drawing of $1,736.30 by Republican members of the board of charities on January 7, 1897. The vouchers filed and approved by Auditor Cole were for services performed in the early part of 1895, and were payable out of appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895. The law plainly provides that services performed during a certain fiscal year must be paid out of the appropriation for that year, and cannot be paid for out of that for any other year. Geo. A. Clark, one of the members of the board, who was a beneficiary of this unlawful payment, filed three vouchers in April and June, 1895, amounting to $521.10, which were indorsed by Auditor Cole as follows: "Not paid for want of funds; appropriation exhausted." But on January 7, 1897, Clark's voucher was approved by Morton Albaugh and K. E. Willcoxson, members of the same board, who received $640.20 and $575, respectively, in the same way. Clark's claim, as well as the others, was recommended by Gov-

ernor Morrill, whose connection with the Bristow contingent-fund steal will be remembered. The payment of these claims was absolutely unlawful. It was a steal, pure and simple.

Another similar deal was the payment of $100 to Assistant Secretary of State T. S. Stover (Rep.), as part pay for indexing the session laws. A peculiar thing in connection with this claim is, that the work of printing the session laws had not progressed to the extent that any indexing could have been done on April 1, 1895, when the voucher was filed.

These two transactions were not of an unusual character during the Morrill administration. The object seemed to be to leave no money in the treasury that they could get their hands on. The administration began with the payment by Governor Morrill of clerks for services performed prior to inauguration out of his contingent fund. It closed with the unlawful payments to the members of the board of charities, above referred to.

There is not room in this small pamphlet for a statement of all of the steals which occurred between the beginning and close of the administration.

Populists Save Taxpayers' Money.

The Populists have been in control of Harper county for five years, and have made a record which is a splendid one. During the previous five years the Republicans ran the county, at a total expense of $190,673, an average of $38,134 per year. The last five years, of Populist admin-

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istration, have cost $152,578, an average of $30,413 per year. During these years the Populists have bought and paid for the poor farm, the poor-house, and built fully as many bridges as their predecessors did in the previous five years. In 1887 the Republican expense account reached $51,305, and in 1896 the Populists spent only $22,426—less than half as much. This record is being made, not in one county, but in every cour ·· where Populists have had control long enoug to give time for their efforts to bring results. If this is the ort of way in which people want public affairs conducted, every Populist ticket in the state should be elected this year.

State Treasurer Biddle (Pop.) turned over to his Republican successor in 1895 the sum of $589,503. State Treasurer Atherton (Rep.) turned over to Mr. Heflebower, the present state treasurer, only $99,700. Republicans should explain what became of the difference, amounting to about $490,000.

Recapitulation.

During the history of independent government in the United States there has always been two elements, both claiming to be watchful of the interests of the people. They have gone on the hustings, year after year for a century, and advocated honest government economically administered. No party platform in the history of the nation has advocated extravagance. Notwith-

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tanding the solicitude of parties for the people, history is but a long chain of broken promises and violated pledges. At first the Republican party inspired some hope along this line; but it is a proposition incapable of successful contradiction that it has been the most extravagant party in the history of this nation. In Kansas it has, by reason of its past power, based on prejudice, been not only extravagant, but absolutely dishonest. From the dust and cobwebs of the archives of the state its rottenness can be detected. It smells for investigation. Vouchers have been dug up that prove guilt in a thousand ways that cannot be disputed.

The later history of Republican administrations in Kansas is nothing more or less than a carnival of jobbery. It reached its height after the birth of Populism. The honest element of the party, growing tired of its abuses, began to leave it. The restraint of their influence being gone, the party became extremely corrupt and notoriously extravagant. This made still more of the honest element leave it. Instead of being wise enough to return to honest methods and win back those who might reinspire the public with confidence, the party, like Richard III, became more reckless and drove its old adherents and supporters farther away from it. To-day the Republican party in Kansas is practically nothing but a party of politicians under the leadership of bosses. To be sure, there are thousands of honest men in its rank and file; but they have nothing to do with its management, and their influence has practically no restraint on the tendency of the politicians to proceed in the manner of spoilsmen.

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The party made up of the reform forces is the party that not only stands for economy but for efficiency at the same time. The economy of cost is not true economy until it is united with the economy of service. In both, the reform forces—united in the party that has given the state its present administration—excel; and a comparison with any Republican administration is challenged. The idea intended to be conveyed here is that the administration of Governor Leedy has done more for the people of the state, at less cost to the people, than the administration of any Republican governor of recent years. It has not only saved money for the people by economy and honesty, but it has taken robbing corporations by the throat and compelled them to do the service of the people at less cost than ever before. It has asked the employees of the state to be patriotic in rendering service to the state, and its request has not been in vain. The state is getting more efficient service from its employees to-day, at less cost, than at any time since Kansas was admitted into the union. All this has been done without robbing honest labor of a penny of its just reward. This is honesty, economy and justice combined—three elements that should be predominant features in all governments of the people. On this proposition the books of the state are open to the people, and the administration not only invites but urges examination.

What is true of the departments of the state is true of every office in Kansas that is under the control of the representatives of the party of the people. If, then, the people of Kansas want a

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public service proven to be honest, economical, and efficient, as they have so frequently manifested, why should n't the party that gives them such a service be indorsed at the polls next month and continued in the guardianship of the public interests?

Does the Republican party invite an examination of its record and a comparison with the party at present in control of the affairs of the state? Does it offer any reason why the public should again trust it? The Republican party has nothing left to deal in but sophistries. It depends for success on the assumption that the people are fools enough to believe that the prosperity brought about by the providence of a just and a generous God and the sweat and toil of an industrious and thrifty people, is due to an administration established in Washington through the wealth and influence of corporations and favored individuals made powerful by legislation.

The Republican party cannot even go on the stump and sustain its prophecies. A year ago they spouted from every forum the calamitous prediction that unless they were continued in power the credit of Kansas would be destroyed, loans would be withdrawn, enterprise would cease, and the land would go to the dogs with unparalleled and disastrous rapidity. They were turned down, and what is the result? Eastern loan companies will not accept the unmatured debts of Kansas without an affidavit that the money was made off the incumbered property; money is offered for investment in Kansas at the lowest rate of interest in the history of America, and Kansas

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securities have the right of way in all the markets in the country. The credit of the state was never more respectable. In a word, Kansas has been redeemed without the redeemers. Political brokerage has ceased, and it is not necessary now to give a "drunk" and a champagne supper to sell one of the bonds of the state. Kansas interest is now secured by the honesty of the people and not by the prospects of the politicians, and the men who hold the securities and reluctantly accept the indebtedness know it.

The present state officers are now 10 months in office, and they have witnessed the state's credit rise from the lowest ebb to the highest tide of reputation ever recorded in the state's history.

They have throttled the school-book trust by passing a uniform text-book law that will make an annual saving to the people of $300,000.

They have collected in nine months $10,722 more from the insurance corporations than was collected during any 12 months of Morrill's administration.

They have taken the Kansas City stock-yards corporation by the throat and compelled it to do the business of the farmers and stock-raisers of the state for $222,917.60 less than their exorbitant scale.

They have saved, by their honest and economical administration of the state penitentiary, the sum of $25,405.53.

The legislature cut down those appropriations that burdened the taxpayer the enormous sum of $519,776.19. The legislative session at which this was done cost $14,200 less than the preceding Republican legislature.

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The administration, through Attorney-General Boyle, saved to the people of the state, by his fight against the substitution of the "cents per hundred pounds" rate for the car-load rate in the shipment of stock, a sum of money that cannot very well be estimated. Capt. Joseph Waters, a learned and eminent Republican, estimated it recently as a saving of $500 a day to the people of Kansas. It is fully that much.

The State Board of Railroad Commissioners, through its examination of complaints from Rice county, secured a reduction of freight on farm machinery, coal and grain amounting to $30,000 annually, to the people tributary to Lyons, Chase, and Mitchell. In Woodson county the same board secured reductions on the coal rate which will amount to a big sum annually.

Not a community in the state has complained to this administration in vain, and no "anarchistic" or "revolutionary" methods have been adopted in the adjustment of disputes or the settlement of grievances. The power of the state has been used in a conservative but decidedly earnest manner, and those with whom the state had to deal fully understood it.

To be brief, Kansas is now governed according to the honest, well-meaning ambitions of her people. The prophecy of her motto is being fulfilled.