

BOB DUNN FIRES DEADLY VOLLEY

Auditor of State Riddles the Democratic Administration in a Speech at Milaca, Showing Extravagance and Mismanagement of Departments Under So-Called "Reform" Administration.

DEMOCRATIC RECORD ROTTEN TO THE CORE, AS USUAL

Grain Inspection Bureau and Prison Twine Plant Crossly Mismanaged and Every Attempt Made by Democrats At Reform Merely an Expensive Experiment—Official Records Show Abject Failure on the Part of Lind and His Subordinates.

Milaca, Minn., Sept. 22.—State Auditor Dunn fired the opening gun of the campaign at a largely attended Republican rally here last night, other speakers being Hon. S. R. Van Sant, Republican candidate for governor, and his son, Grant.

Mr. Dunn said: "Since the day of its birth the destinies of the State of Minnesota have been controlled by the Republican party, with the exception of one or two brief but memorable periods, when certain departments of the state government fell into the hands of the Philistines. But for these temporary aberrations, the history of Minnesota has been one of steady progress and increasing prosperity and growth until she stands today, the foremost of the grand galaxy of young Western states which in years to come will form the heart of the Republic.

So interwoven during the past forty years has been the history of our state and that of the Republican party in Minnesota, that the history of one is the history of the other. Their stories cannot be separated or read apart. We are all proud of our state, proud of its growth, proud of its strength and greatness, proud of its reputation. No Minnesotan can be ashamed of his state, for its escutcheon is unstained and it has nobly done its part in and for the Union.

Our citizens have ever been first to offer their services and arms for the defense of the flag and the nation, and have acquitted themselves with honor on many a bloody battlefield. In the paths of peace they have played a manly part, and the people of Minnesota to-day, whether they regard our institutions or our laws, can do with pride and satisfaction. And yet we are told by political opponents that the Republican party is a party of corruption and dishonesty. We have been told that if the Democrats and Populists could only secure control of the state government they would work wonderful reforms and rescue the commonwealth from the straits into which they allege it has fallen.

Well, during the past forty years our political opponents have had three opportunities to show what they could do in the way of reforming things. In 1857 and 1858 there was a Democratic governor and legislature. The particular reform engendered at that time—the formative period of our state, when it was first emerging from its territorial swaddling clothes into the freedom and responsibilities of statehood—was the leading upon the new state of a bonded debt of \$2,275,000.

This first period of Democratic reform saddled the State of Minnesota with a public debt of which there is \$1,200,000 outstanding to-day on which the taxpayers pay interest, and will probably continue to do so for the next ten or twelve years.

In 1881 bonds for \$4,287,000, representing half of the original indebtedness together with the accrued interest on the same, bearing 4 1/2 per cent interest, were issued by the state in full satisfaction of the claims arising out of the Minnesota State Railroad Bonds.

In 1891, the then governor, Hon. Wm. R. Merriam, formulated a plan for the funding of this state debt which, thanks to his financial ability and sagacity, resulted in a saving to the state of many thousands of dollars. Under the provisions of Chapter 11 of the General Laws of 1891, the governor, treasurer and auditor were appointed a commission to refund the debt, which was successfully accomplished, and in place of the 4 1/2 per cent adjustment bonds, the commission issued new funding bonds bearing 3 1/2 per cent interest.

The 1891 law provides that \$150,000 of these funding bonds can be cancelled in every year, and this has been done, with the result that the amount of the funding bonds now outstanding is \$1,200,000, and this is the present condition of our only state debt, created in 1858 by our first Democratic state government.

THE FUSION LEGISLATURE OF 1891.
About the time that the Republican state officials were having their final struggle with the legacy of debt bequeathed the state by the pioneer Democratic reformers of 1858, the Democratic and Farmers' Alliance parties—the latter being the maiden name of the Populist party before it finally decided to cohabit with the Democracy—these two parties, after some flirtation,

became engaged, and decided that, by uniting forces, they could once more reform the state government. The result of this union was that the Fusionists captured the state legislature and organized it, and they also elected their own state auditor.

Now were the Fusionist forces in a position to inaugurate the reform which they had stridently proclaimed in their campaign as necessary to the peace, happiness and prosperity of the state. They could pass any law they wished, and they had the whole accounting system of the state, the books and the records, in the hands and under the inspection of an auditor of their own political creed. They were in a position to expose any crookedness of which past Republican administrations might have been guilty.

What was the result? The Democratic state auditor absolutely failed to discover or disclose any act or deed creditable to any of his Republican predecessors in office. Not a trace of anything scandalous or dishonorable was found in any branch of the state's business. The accounts of the departments and institutions were absolutely straight.

To the Fusion legislature of 1891 we must look, therefore, for the promised reforms and reform measures.

The act of this legislature which brought the value of "Reform" home most clearly to the people of Minnesota was the raising of the tax levy rate from 17-10 mills, as levied by the legislature of 1880, to 22-10 mills, an increase of 5-10 of a mill.

The amount levied by the 1889 legislature for state revenue purposes was \$2,350,000 for the two years of 1889 and 1890.

The amount levied by the 1891 legislature for the two years of 1891 and 1892 was \$2,545,000.

The greatest achievement of this Reform legislature was in the matter of legislative expenses. The Republican legislature of 1889 cost the taxpayers \$149,777.53. The Fusion legislature of 1891 cost \$162,963.52, or \$13,175.99 more.

Thus it was proved in 1891, as in 1858, that an era of alleged reform is expensive. The people evidently took this view of it in 1892, for the legislature of 1893 was given over to the control of the Republican party. The result was that the rate of the tax levy was reduced to 17-10 of a mill and the legislative expenses were reduced to \$142,101.71, or \$20,851.81 below the expenses of the previous legislature.

Since then, successive Republican legislatures, commencing with the session of 1895, have reduced the rate of the tax levy to 15-10 of a mill, and last year the state auditor, by virtue of the power vested in him by law, was able to still further reduce the tax to 14-10 of a mill, and this year I shall reduce the tax levy to 13-10 of a mill.

The legislative expenses, even with the increase in the apportionment, were, in 1895, \$24,105.17 below those of the 1891 session; \$18,632.53 below in 1897, and \$15,074.02 below in 1899.

So much for the reform period of 1891. Less than two years ago we entered upon our third era of reform. On Jan. 2, 1899, the Hon. John Lind became the chief executive officer of the state. Right here I wish to say, for Gov. Lind, personally and officially, I have the highest regard, and as he said in his speech of acceptance, on many occasions I have consulted and advised and advised with him as to the best course to pursue to protect and further the interests of the state; but he is the head and front of the opposition to the Republican party in the state today, and is indirectly responsible for any sins of omission or commission on the part of boards or heads of departments appointed by him.

He was elected governor by the combined votes of the Democratic and Populist parties, and was pledged to reform certain abuses from which, it was charged by the Fusion politicians, the people of the state were suffering. These alleged abuses, according to the aforesaid politicians, were chargeable to the Republican party and to Republican officeholders. Gov. Lind's administration is now drawing to a close, and it is not unfair to inquire what reforms have been accomplished during his term of office. The great outcry of the Fusion politicians during the campaign of 1898 was against the state grain inspection department and against the management of the state prison, particularly in reference to the manufacture of binding twine.

State Grain Inspection.

In his speech of acceptance, Gov. Lind discussed the state grain inspection department and certain changes which were designated reforms which have been effected therein during his administration. In concluding his remarks on this subject, the governor said:

"I will only add that these reforms in the grain service have been accomplished without any increase of expenditure; on the contrary, the expense of the service during the crop year just closed, under Mr. Reishus' administration, was \$2,201.78 less than the cost of the service during the preceding year of Mr. Clausen's administration.

The former chief grain inspector terminated his services with the department about Aug. 1, 1899, so that during the first seven months of Gov. Lind's term of office he was in ostensible charge of the department, although a number of changes and appointments were made for him for which he was not responsible. I draw attention to this in order to show that no fair comparison can be made between the last year and the preceding year, as the term of the Republican chief inspector overlapped the first year of Gov. Lind's administration.

The only fair comparison is one between the last full year, when Inspector Clausen held office under a Republican governor, and the full year during which Inspector Reishus has held office under a Democratic governor, that is, between the years of 1898 and 1900.

I wish to be absolutely fair with our opponents, and for that reason I will quote a few figures from the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners for the year ending Nov. 30, 1899, which was made by Chief Grain Inspector E. S. Reishus. The figures for 1900 were taken from the reports of Mr. Reishus to the state auditor's office. These figures show that the expenses of the grain inspection department for the crop years ending Aug. 31, were as follows:

1895	\$147,522.22
1896	174,808.24
1897	176,229.97
1898	191,681.12
1899	213,764.54
1900	207,955.54
Board of appeals, 1900	14,233.00

Comparing the expenses for the year

1900, were \$68,190.61, as compared with \$316,539.16 for the year ending July 31st 1899. A balance of \$208,996.44, left on July 31st, 1899, to the credit of the prison binding twine fund, has been spent, and the cash receipts for the year 1900 amounted, on July 31st, to \$449,494.60.

During the year that our friends of the opposition have had control of the prison twine plant, I find that they purchased exceedingly large amounts of sisal, the monthly statements I have before referred to showing upwards of 7,000,000 pounds of fiber purchased. I am informed by Warden Reeve that the average price paid for this large amount of raw material was a fraction over 8 1/2 cents per pound, and that there remained on hand, Aug. 1st, 1900, 1,175,539 pounds of sisal and 187,675 pounds of manufactured twine.

I find by the market report published in the Cordage Trade Journal of Sept. 6, 1900, that the market price of sisal is from 5 3/8 to 5 1/2 cents per pound, and the tendency is toward lower prices. The prison twine plant is thus shown to be in possession of 1,175,539 pounds of sisal at the end of the season, for which it has paid almost 3 cents more than the current market price. I also find in the same trade journal, that the market price quoted Sept. 6th for Standard Sisal twine is 7 to 7 1/2 cents per pound. I find from the statement made to me by the prison authorities, that from Sept. 8, 1899, to Feb. 8, 1900, the farmers who had ordered twine from the state prison were charged 16 cents per pound for "mixed" twine, and from Feb. 8 to Aug. 1, 1900, 10 cents for sisal and 12 1/2 cents for mixed, and as the prison twine is sold at a figure but very little above cost, and is manufactured at a low cost, owing to the cheapness of prison labor, it is not likely that the surplus stock of fiber at the prison could be manufactured and sold at lower prices except at a loss.

The farmers who ordered their twine from the state prison in the spring and early summer at the prices above quoted, have had the mortification of seeing twine of the same quality offered by jobbers at 7 to 8 cents, or 2 to 3 cents lower than the prison twine.

I am informed by the prison authorities that on July 31, 1900, the outstanding accounts of the prison twine plant amounted to \$375,865.34. It has been customary for all bills for twine to be paid up by the farmers by Dec. 1st each year, but the indications are that

has been fulfilled, I will briefly indicate:

Education.
The greatest achievement, in my opinion, of the Republican administration, has been the creation, building up and conservation of the state's permanent school fund and the development of our educational facilities made possible thereby.

To-day Minnesota has a permanent school fund amounting to \$13,294,016.48, and a permanent university fund of \$1,403,070.14, all of which is invested either in United States bonds, the bonds of other states, loaned to school districts in towns, counties, cities and villages in our own state, and in land contracts. The school fund of Minnesota is the largest of any state in the Union, and will ultimately reach \$30,000,000. We have 325,766 school children in Minnesota, and, owing to the existence of our magnificent school fund, supplemented by the 1-mill general school tax, there was distributed by the state in aid of the public schools for the year 1900, the sum of \$1,295,596.92, or \$3.98 per capita. That is to say, the state was in a position to give and did give the sum of \$3.98 for each one of the 325,766 pupils.

During the past forty years the state aid to the public schools derived from investments of the permanent school fund has amounted in the aggregate to \$11,203,346.23. In educational matters Minnesota is the third state in the Union, and is exceeded only by the two old and rich commonwealths of Massachusetts and New York.

Direct aid is given to each school in addition to the aid given on the basis of the school population. We have 113 high schools in Minnesota, which each received for the year 1900, the sum of \$700.00, or \$80,500 in the aggregate. Over 110 graded schools received \$200 each last year, equal to \$22,000; the six normal departments of high schools received \$500 each, or \$3,000 in all; our 190 semi-graded schools were given \$7.59 each, or \$10,925.10, and our 639 rural schools were paid \$60.60 each, or \$39,996.60 in the aggregate. The total amount of direct aid to the different public schools for the year 1900 amounted to \$156,431.10.

In addition to this, the school districts can secure loans from the permanent school fund at the low rate of interest of 4 per cent, to aid them in building their school houses and for permanent school improvements. There has thus been loaned to school districts \$1,114,034.93. At present an amount not to exceed 7 per cent of the real property of a school district can be borrowed from the permanent school fund, but the legislature of 1899 wisely provided for an amendment to Section 6 of Article 8 of the State Constitution, which, if adopted by the voters next November, will permit of the loaning of an amount not to exceed 15 per cent of the assessed valuation of the real property to a school district, and at the rate of 3 per cent per annum. I sincerely hope that that amendment will be adopted. There is no reason why the state should not loan its permanent school fund to its own school districts, towns, villages, cities and counties on as easy terms as it loans to other states.

Summer training schools for teachers have been established, and have proved very useful in providing valuable instruction to teachers from all parts of the state. I have not yet mentioned our splendid state university among the list of our educational institutions. It contains colleges of science, literature and arts; a college of engineering and mechanical arts; an agricultural college; a school of mines; a law college; a college of medicine and surgery; a dental college and a college of pharmacy.

The number of students enrolled at the university in 1898 was 2,890, and the present number is over 3,500.

In Winona, Mankato, St. Cloud and Moorhead are located four state normal schools that are the pride of their several localities. These normal schools are turning out hundreds of well equipped teachers annually. The services of normal school graduates are always in demand as teachers at remunerative wages. The total amount expended by the state on normal school buildings to July 31st 1900, was \$908,249.92, and the total cost of maintenance of the four normal schools to July 31st, 1900, was \$1,746,755.39. At the present time the state appropriates about \$120,000 annually for the support of its four public schools.

It is impossible to overestimate the value of our splendid educational system, and the marvel of it is, that all is free. Education, for the primary grade to the university, is as free to the child of the laborer as it is to the child of the millionaire. The children of the foreign-born enjoy the same educational privileges as the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers. There is no discrimination. It is free to all.

Of the school lands granted by congress to the state, amounting to some 2,840,284 acres, there yet remains unsold, in round numbers, 1,200,000 acres, which are steadily increasing in value, and at the moderate estimated value of \$6.00 per acre would net the school fund \$7,200,000, and increase it ultimately to \$20,400,000. With the addition of the timber and mineral upon them and the value of swamp lands, which have become a part of the school fund, it will eventually reach \$30,000,000.

Our political opponents have declared that if they had been in power the school fund would have been infinitely larger; that they would have acted with such wisdom and discretion as to have doubled it at least. Such is the claim they advanced in the campaign two years ago. But they have never managed any capacity for improving the Republican methods of managing the state's business. This claim of theirs—this pretentious claim—may be safely left to the people of Minnesota to pass upon.

The One-Mill General School Tax.

A beneficial measure in furthering the cause of education is the 1-mill general school tax enacted by the legislature of 1897. It provided that a 1-mill tax should be extended against all the taxable property of the state, to be distributed at the same time as the regular school apportionment is made in March and October. Since the adoption of that law, and under its provisions, the sum of \$6,519,281.10 has been collected and paid to the school districts of the state, based on the per capita attendance.

This law was enacted in the interest of the sparsely-settled rural counties. Under the operation of the law the richer counties of the state are made to

bear a portion of the expenses of maintaining the schools in the less wealthy counties.

By adding the \$11,203,346.23 to the income derived from the permanent school fund investments, to the \$6,519,381.10 produced by the state 1-mill tax, we find that since 1863 the enormous sum of \$17,723,227.43 has been apportioned to the common schools of the state.

No Saving Under the Present Administration.

Of the public institutions of the state, which have been provided for educational, charitable and correctional purposes during the forty years of Republican rule, the people of Minnesota have just reason to be proud. Without presenting a mass of figures and details which would be of little interest to you, I may say that in the past forty years the state has expended over \$3,000,000 on buildings for state institutions, and over \$20,000,000 in maintaining them.

The per capita cost of maintenance steadily decreased up to the close of 1898; during the years 1899 and 1900 there is a slight increase, so far as the charitable and correctional institutions are concerned. There has been no decrease of cost during the present administration, so that in this direction, also, there has been no benefit to the taxpayers from a reform administration.

The cost of educational institutions will increase in proportion to the increase of pupils, and the state is fully able to provide for them generously in the future, as it has done in the past.

Minnesota's Charitable Institutions.

Minnesota has many noble charitable institutions. All things considered no state in the Union has made more ample provision for its unfortunate and afflicted than our own North Star State. The three main hospitals for the insane, located at St. Peter, Rochester and Fergus Falls, are ably managed and well conducted, and every care is bestowed upon the unfortunates confined therein. In the beautiful little city of Faribault is located the Minnesota institute for defectives, consisting of a school for the deaf, a school for the blind and a school for the feeble-minded. This inmates are well cared for by humane and experienced officers and instructors. Another noble charitable state institution is the home for dependent and neglected children, located at Owatonna. The building and grounds cost the state \$200,000, but it was money well expended. The object of the institution is to provide a temporary home and school for the dependent and neglected children of the state. The Minnesota state training school for boys and girls, located at Red Wing, while somewhat on the plan of a reformatory is a necessary and beneficent institution and is generously provided for by the state. All these institutions are under the care and supervision of non-partisan boards of managers. It was Republican legislatures that provided for the establishment of these institutions, and it was Republican legislatures that wisely guarded against partisan boards of managers.

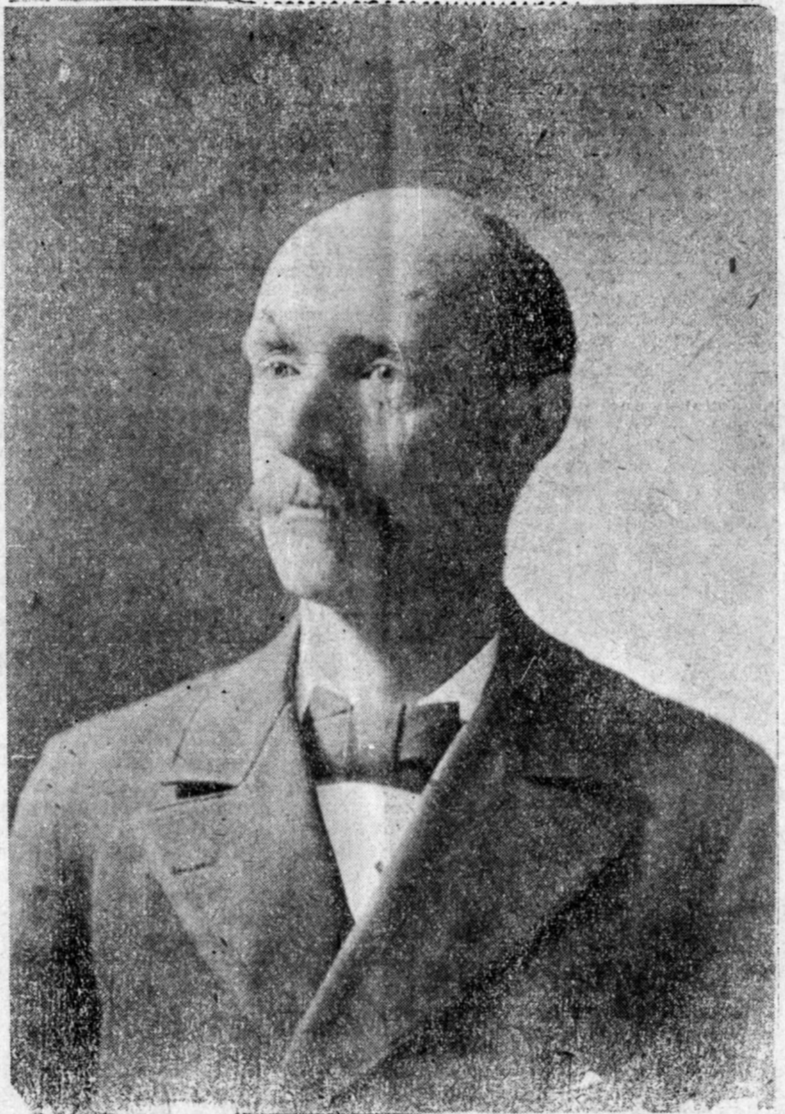
State Soldiers' Home and State Relief for Soldiers of the Civil War.

The Republican party of the state has always recognized the justice of providing for the necessities of the veterans of the Civil war and their widows and orphans. We find that as early as 1855 the legislature established a soldiers' orphan home at Winona. This was satisfactorily conducted for several years. It was not, however, until 1887 that the legislature decided to provide a permanent home for all honorably discharged ex-soldiers, sailors and marines who served in the army or navy of the United States during the War of the Rebellion or the Mexican war, and who had no adequate means of support. Beautiful buildings have been erected near Minnehaha Falls on the outskirts of Minneapolis for that purpose, and to the present time over \$250,000 has been expended on the home. About 300 old soldiers, who are unable to provide themselves with the necessities of life, are being cared for at the soldiers' home at an average expense of \$50,000 a year, a portion of which expenditure is borne by the national government. Nor is it necessary that old soldiers should go to the soldiers' home to obtain the benefit of state assistance. The same law which established the soldiers' home (chapter 148, G. L. 1887) also provided that those who were unable or unwilling to go to this institution could receive relief at their own homes, and this was made permanent by a tax levy of one-tenth of one mill upon all taxable property in the state. Since that law was passed in 1887 the generous sum of \$510,000 has been distributed by the trustees to old soldiers, their widows and orphans, at their homes. This has been done as a positive recognition of the debt the state owed the veterans of the Civil war and their dependents.

Assisting Fire Companies.

Nearly every village in our state has an organized fire department. One-half of the amount collected from the insurance companies as a tax levy upon the premiums received in the villages and cities of our state is paid back to the local fire departments. The law authorizing this payment is found in chapter 187, G. L. 1886, in cities where the fire company has organized a fireman's relief association for the benefit of the sick and injured firemen the state tax is paid to them and not to the fire companies direct. This very meritorious law has been the means of building up vigorous and useful fire companies in nearly every incorporated village in the state, and since the passage of the law the sum of \$444,865.69 has been distributed by the state treasurer for the support of fire companies and firemen's relief associations.

Fostering Agricultural Interests.
Minnesota is a state of many diversified interests and it has been the policy of the Republican party to foster their fullest development. The agriculturists are the largest wealth producing class and their interests have received careful consideration by Republican legislatures. An agricultural college has been established for the benefit of farmers' sons and daughters who may desire to receive the most advanced instruction in all matters pertaining to the business of farming and dairying. Provision has also been made for the establishment of farmers' institutes, and an efficient corps of instructors in all branches pertaining to the work of farming, visit and give instruction to the people in the various counties of the state. The work has increased until now \$12,500 is annually expended for farmers' institutes, and since the



ROBERT C. DUNN, State Auditor.

1900 with those for 1898, that is, the first full year of Democratic administration with the last full years of Republican administration of the department, it is seen that the expenses of grain inspection during 1900 exceed the 1898 expenses by \$16,274.47. If the cost of the board of grain appeals is added to the 1900 expenses, this excess is increased to \$20,507.47 over 1898. There were more cars of wheat inspected in 1898 than were inspected in 1900, yet the cost of inspection was greater by \$16,274.47, excluding the board of appeals, and this increased cost is sufficient to pay 27 additional employees \$600 per year each. Whether or not the employees' staff was increased to that extent, I am not prepared to say, but it could be done for that amount of money.

These figures do not bear out the statement of Gov. Lind that the so-called Democratic reforms have been carried out without increased expenditures. They show that the contrary is the case. The State Prison Binding Twine Plant.

The farmers of the state are vitally concerned in the management of the binding twine plant of the state prison. It is to their immediate interest that it should be conducted on an economical business basis. In 1898 the opposition made great promises as to how they would improve the management of the plant and increase its usefulness to the farmers, if they were given the power. As a result of the election two years ago the opposition secured control of the management of the state prison twine plant, and it is instructive to now review the work of the new administration.

From the monthly statements of the expenses of the state prison at Stillwater, I find that, under the present administration, the expenditures of the twine plant for the year ending July

there will be a large sum uncollected on Dec. 1st of this year. The only term which can describe the management of the prison twine plant by the present administration is the word "unbusinesslike," and the results of their efforts at the end of the season are not such as to breed confidence in their future binding twine manufacturing operations. In their efforts to manufacture a large stock of political capital the board of prison managers lost sight of business principles in the manufacture of twine.

The Parties Compared.

The record of the achievements of the Democratic and Populist parties in their self-appointed role of reformers, is not one of which they have any reason to be proud. Their brief interruptions have not been to the advantage of the state or to the interests of the taxpayers. They have been given three trials and found lamentably wanting on each occasion, and there is no indication that if they are given a fourth opportunity they will do any better. Like the foolish virgins, they are anxious to participate in the marriage feast but they invariably forget to provide oil for their lamps. Their record has been one of failure, and—worse than failure—of disaster.

On the other hand, the Republican party has been the promoter and originator of all that has been useful and beneficial to the state. Our laws and institutions have come from Republican hands, and stand to-day monuments to the fidelity and intelligence of Republican lawmakers and officials. That the Republican party has earned the confidence of the people is evidenced by the fact that, with the brief interruptions I have before referred to, it has been entrusted with the complete administration of the state's affairs for forty consecutive years. How the trust