



Nebraska History posts materials online for your personal use. Please remember that the contents of *Nebraska History* are copyrighted by the Nebraska State Historical Society (except for materials credited to other institutions). The NSHS retains its copyrights even to materials it posts on the web.

For permission to re-use materials or for photo ordering information, please see:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/magazine/permission.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* and four issues of *Nebraska History News* annually. For membership information, see:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/members/index.htm>

Article Title: Silas A Holcomb

Full Citation: N C Abbott, "Silas A Holcomb," *Nebraska History* 26 (1945): 187-200

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1945SAHolcombONE.pdf>

Date: 8/04/2017

Article Summary: Abbott provides an account of his personal contacts with Holcomb from 1894 to 1920, which includes the period when Holcomb was governor of Nebraska.

See also Part II of this article:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1946SAHolcombPt2.pdf>

Scroll Down for complete article.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Silas A Holcomb, Edward Rosewater, L D Richards, Luther J Abbott, Thomas J Majors, Lorenzo Crouse, James E Boyd, Ammi L Bixby, William Jennings Bryan, Charles W Bryan

Nebraska Place Names: Fremont, Broken Bow

Keywords: Silas A Holcomb, Populists, Silver Democrats

Photographs / Images: Governor Silas A Holcomb; Populist convention for Third Congressional District, July 15, 1890, Columbus, Nebraska

Silas A. Holcomb*

N. C. ABBOTT

This address fulfills a promise given in March, 1919, to Silas Holcomb, a gracious gentleman whom I admired and whose warm friendship over a period of years I cherished.

I seriously wonder whether any other man has served the state in more exalted posts than Holcomb or rendered on the whole a finer service. He covered the gamut of district judge, governor, judge of the supreme court, chief justice of the supreme court, member of the Board of Control of state institutions and Chairman of the Board.

My personal knowledge and acquaintance with him began in 1894 when he was first a candidate for governor, age 36, and I a rather cocky university student, age 20, and was ended only with his death in 1920, more than a quarter-century after. A part of this time we were on terms of real friendship, a much closer understanding than might reasonably be expected from the sixteen years difference in our ages. These notes are a personal narrative of some high points of contact and appraisal rather than an attempt at biography.

In the summer of 1894 I was at home in Fremont, Nebraska, awaiting the opening of the school year at the University of Nebraska. I was expecting to return to my work in the junior year. Near the close of the summer, the political parties met in their respective conventions, the Republicans nominating Thomas J. Majors, of Peru, for Governor; the Democrats and Populists effecting a fusion, with Silas A. Holcomb of Broken Bow as their standard bearer. This nomination of Colonel Majors resulted immediately in the repudiation of Majors by Edward Rosewater, talented and hard-hitting editor of the *Omaha Bee*, and in the beginning of an acrimonious campaign which put Holcomb in the State Capitol.

Mr. Rosewater chose to open his campaign at Fremont, largely, I suspect, because L. D. Richards lived in my home

*This article was developed from an address given before a joint meeting of the Lincoln and the Lancaster County Bar Associations at Lincoln, Nebraska, October 27, 1941.

town and had entered immediately after the nomination of Holcomb into an assault against Mr. Rosewater and Rosewater's motives. Richards had lost the governorship four years previously and had publicly dared Rosewater to speak in the county seat of Dodge County. The threatened bolt of Edward Rosewater had not been a milk-and-water gesture. It was full of pepper and Capsicum. The diminutive editor was on the ground during the Populist convention. He could be seen whispering in the ears of delegates. At times he had to climb on a higher step of the hotel stairway to get his lips near the ear of a tall delegate. His bristly mustache must have tickled a sensitive ear lobe.

The Fremont meeting was held in the old Love Theatre, on Broad Street, directly west of the present Pathfinder Hotel, and was attended by many people. Hardly had Rosewater begun his address when a messenger entered with a carefully prepared letter from Mr. Richards, in which it was again charged by the candidate of four years previous that he had been deceived and sold out by the great Republican editor. Mr. Rosewater was loaded for such an attack and began one of the most masterly political addresses that I have ever listened to. He had hundreds of editorials clipped from the *Bee* and read one after another, showing how he had written indefatigably for the candidate. Rosewater then asserted, "Mr. Richards, unfortunately, lost that campaign because of cowardice--he would not announce publicly whether he was wet or dry, and he was feared by both sides."

This Fremont address opened the campaign, as I have observed, and for more than two months Mr. Rosewater was in the thick of one of the most vituperative campaigns ever fought in Nebraska. He wrote stinging editorials. He gave scores of speeches. Many of the addresses were printed complete, and then thousands of copies of the *Bee* were scattered free at homes over the various towns and villages. I remember well how I earned several dollars by carrying these extras into the suburbs of Lincoln. Dr. Addison E. Sheldon once said the weekly *Bee* was sent to 1100 voters in Dawes County free for two months continuously before this vehement campaign came to a close.

Holcomb was elected by about 3,000 votes and again Mr.

Rosewater had to enter into another acrimonious struggle to keep the successful candidate from being counted out. It was believed by many people that this very thing had happened in the '90 election when James E. Boyd had been seated instead of John H. Powers. In a letter to my father, Dr. Luther J. Abbott, dated November 11, 1894, Rosewater says:

I have been kept busy ever since the election in thwarting the conspirators who are trying to count out Judge Holcomb. I doubt very much whether they will be able to accomplish anything in the face of the fact that he has over 3000 plurality, in spite of the importation of more than 10,000 non-residents and the colossal sums of money that have been squandered in trying to defeat him. We are now on the trail of an attempt to defraud Holcomb by reversal of the figures in the returns of Phelps County. Have despatched a man to Holdrege this morning and we shall compel the clerk who perpetrated this fraud to send a corrected return to the Secretary of State or we will send him to the penitentiary.

At that time, the hundreds of appointments made by the governor were counted as the spoils of war. Immediately my father began a campaign to secure the appointment as superintendent of the Nebraska State Hospital for the Insane, located at Lincoln. The Republicans held the state offices outside of the governorship and were in control of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings. Dr. John Hay, superintendent of the hospital, refused to relinquish his position until the governor of the state instituted court proceedings, and this test case determined the right of the governor to discharge institutional executives and other appointive officers and to replace them with his own choice within limits of the various statutes. The *Lincoln Call* announced this decision on its front page in large type, "A Hay Fire."

Father served the two terms while Holcomb remained governor. I spent much of my time at the Lincoln hospital, during the quadrennium, rooming with father away up on the top floor, center of the main building. No one might have dreamed of the family's moving in after delivery of the court decision nor have thought this would be a point of vantage during a most strenuous presidential canvass. A star performer and his satellites, brother, brother-in-law, statesmen and politicians great and

small were often entertained within, and many frequently dined at our refectory table. On the niggardly salary of Nebraska's grasshopper constitution no governor friendly to a presidential candidate's cause could adequately do the honors to visiting national committeemen, senators and quasi-statesmen. The gubernatorial salary was then \$2,500 a year--nothing more.

In order to understand the somewhat surprising career of Silas Alexander Holcomb one must review cursorily the conditions out of which he achieved preferment. For many years during the last quarter of the nineteenth century there had been economic unrest of intense degree among laborers and farmers over the United States. Unions had been formed among various groups and the Farmers Alliance, to point out one, had gained strength and developed a malcontent leadership especially in the middle west, northwest, and in some southern states.

Out of these conditions grew the People's Independent Party, commonly called "Populist," which gained some notable victories in the fifteen years around the turn of the century. The convention of national scope held in Omaha, July 4, 1892, was the great focus for these elements of discontent. The platform written by Ignatius Donnelly was a masterpiece in its summary of grievances.

Nebraska was conspicuous in this movement--a new party contending against the Republican and Democratic organizations--and Holcomb became one of the outstanding figures. William Jennings Bryan was undoubtedly a chief adviser, spending his energy on fusion of Populists and left-wing Democrats, or Silvercrats, though he retained membership in the Democratic party. William Vincent Allen through this fusion served eight years in the United States Senate. On account of serious dissension, the old Jacksonian party was soon badly split.

Here in our own state the carnage was extreme as the older Morton, Conservative, hurled heavy tomahawk at the younger Bryan, Commoner, who in turn retaliated with biting javelin. At times the weapons on each side might more appropriately have been termed Chinese stink-bombs.

The Silverite Democrats were nearly everywhere in favor of an amalgamation of party strength with Populists. In Nebraska such a union, it appeared, might lead to a general victory. Since

the beginning of statehood, Nebraska Democrats had been able to slip through a state officer on only two occasions--a treasurer in 1888 and James E. Boyd as governor in 1890.

Not only were the Silver Democrats eager to use the new party for advantage at election but there were some cleavages in the Republican party as well. Edward Rosewater, antimonomolist editor of the *Omaha Bee* was strongly opposed to the old guard, notably to Thomas J. Majors and Church Howe.

In the pre-convention canvass to nominate a candidate for governor by the Republicans in 1892 it looked for a time as though Majors would certainly win. But Rosewater searched for good material and picked Lorenzo Crouse, then serving in Washington as assistant secretary of the Treasury. Crouse had been a distinguished officer in Nebraska and was nominated by the convention. In a heated campaign he was elected governor, the democratic *World-Herald* being quiescent since Crouse was the father-in-law of Gilbert M. Hitchcock, Democratic editor and chief owner of the usually aggressive Omaha publication.

In the so-called off-year election of 1893 when University regents and judicial officers were chosen, a name practically new in state politics came to the front. It was that of Silas Holcomb of Custer county. He made an aggressive campaign against the Republican and Democratic candidates and in doing this gained state-wide publicity and attracted the attention of Edward Rosewater.

The impression made on Rosewater was so indelible that a year later, in the fall of 1894, the editor of the *Bee* let it be known by grapevine intelligence that if the Populists would nominate Holcomb for governor at their convention, the *Bee* would make a vigorous campaign in favor of the gentleman from Broken Bow. Rosewater was at the time Republican national committeeman from Nebraska. A fusion with the Democratic party was effected by the strategy of W. J. Bryan, and Holcomb was chosen at the ensuing election by slightly more than 3000 votes.

The nomination of Judge Holcomb as a candidate for governor came as an utter surprise. A few days before he had notified the party leaders that he would not accept a nomination to Congress; he was pleased with his district judgeship. When word reached him on the day before the gubernatorial conven-

tion that state leaders wanted him and that he might be elected, he could hardly believe the story. It took some real argument to persuade him to let his name be used.

Holcomb's background was typical of Nebraskans of his generation. He was a native of Indiana, born August 25, 1858 in Gibson County, near Princetown. His father was John C. Holcomb, a native of Virginia. Coming to Nebraska in 1879 with his mother, two brothers and a sister, he taught school for a season in Hamilton county. In 1880 he entered the law office of Thummel and Platt at Grand Island. Previous study in the office of his uncle, Silas M. Holcomb, at Ft. Branch, Indiana, had given him a start in legal knowledge. By 1882 he was ready for the bar examination which he successfully passed. This test for a license as attorney was held in the court of A. M. Post at Central City. The examiner was M. B. Reese, prosecutor for that district. Both of these men Holcomb was destined to meet later in political controversy.

In 1882, Holcomb married a Nebraska girl, Miss Martha Alice Brinson, who had been born in Cass County. At the time of his election as governor, there were three children in the family--Harold, nine; Marian, seven; and Nettie, five.

The family moved from Grand Island in the spring of 1883 and settled in the fast-growing town of Broken Bow, largest community in vast Custer county. Soon after reaching Broken Bow, Silas entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, J. S. Kirkpatrick, under the firm name of Kirkpatrick & Holcomb.

Holcomb was naturally interested in governmental problems and took to politics as a movie star to the limelight. He became clerk of the township, ran for state representative, served on the school board for ten years, and at the early age of 33 was elected judge of the Twelfth District. In that election he defeated F. G. Hamer who, twenty years later, was elected to the Supreme Court.

II

Early in January, 1895, Silas A. Holcomb took the oath of office as Governor of the State of Nebraska. The executive was a mild radical, but radicalism was not so mild in the legislature. The other state officers were of the old party--stand-pat Repub-



SILAS A. HOLCOMB

From a photograph taken about the time he served as
Governor of Nebraska

licans. If the Populists were full of joy at arriving, at least in part, in the promised land of office-holding, their opponents suffered agony and humiliating anger at the change effected and about to be still more generally effected. This was really the first break in conservative control in twenty-eight years of statehood and the major operation was a painful one. It is true that the Democrats had managed to slip in a governor four years before, but that victory was regarded as a fluke. Boyd's election was like a happy home run batted by a weak hitter in the ninth and depriving the champions of a game rightfully theirs. Boyd had been deprived by dirty politics of part of his term of office and had not been able to make the complete turnover in appointive offices which was supposed to be the spoils coming to a victor. Then Crouse had come into office and the Democratic light had again gone out.

Soon the Governor just installed realized that it was one thing to be elected and sworn into office through failure of crops, on account of heat and on account of striking evidence of fraud and peculation by the party in power for more than a quarter-century. It was, however, a very different thing to carry on the government with the party now on the outside watching every move and ready to do partisan sabotage wherever they might find opportunity.

On the outside too, there was a need for the Governor to bring the criminals to justice. The men charged with fraud and peculation held high social position, many of their friends were still in office, they had ample means to hire attorneys. In not a few cases, judges were inclined to leniency. The prosecution of such men as Bartley, Hill, Mosher, et al. was an uphill business. Much of it had to be postponed until the Governor's second term, as the Populists held only the one office by virtue of the 1894 election. In 1896, the Bryan presidential year, fusion won a clean sweep of state offices, but among the folk in the victorious party there were almost as many causes for grief to the governor as from the enemy outside.

To begin with, the party was really made up of many diverse elements. It was better on offense than execution. It could pound the walls of the enemy but could not build when it got on the inside. The cohesion was only temporary—a unity to dis-

lodge the enemy. Each reform partisan was an individualist disdaining the program of his compatriots. They knew not the term discipline. Every man with a grievance, an ism to promulgate, a scheme to save America, a method for solving the despair of society joined the new party. It was like a gathering of armies on the early crusades in Europe or the clans to assault Troy.

There were women orators, poets turned politicians, college professors who used classroom methods, university students who carried the determination of Atlas on their faces, if not the world on their shoulders. The whole so-called progressive movement developed into a triune organization composed of Silver Democrats, Populists, and Free-Silver Republicans. When convention time arrived there was a three-ring circus. In one tent were Smythe, Hitchcock, Tom Allen, the two Bryans, J. H. Harley, Dr. Hall, Metcalfe, and other worthies coming up to meet fame, as Gruenther, Byrnes, and Arthur Mullen. In the next tent were Holcomb, Wm. V. Allen, the two Judges Sullivan, Fred Shepherd, Dr. Hipple, Edmisten, John E. Miller and a motley crowd of agitators. The third tent was almost a side-show with precocious Arthur J. Weaver ringmaster. Kem, McKeighan, Sutherland, Shallenberger and Green were in one tent or other. Outside were such young fellows trying to break into big time as Harvey E. Newbranch, J. W. Searson, W. W. Wilson, John A. Maguire, Fred Hawxby, John McGuffey and your humble servant. From abroad came Champ Clark, Cyclone Davis, George Town and Mary Ellen Leese to arouse our enthusiasm. We had also with us Tom Tibbles whose past life touched the sacred person of Osawatomie John Brown—Tibbles, who had championed the cause of the Indians and whose wife was the Indian princess, Bright Eyes. Among us too was the ardent rainmaker, W. I. Wright, who failed to conjure rain drops from the sky, though, as a steward of a small institution, he later brought tear drops to many eyes when he purchased several carloads of onions. There was the public reader, Wright's son, who could hold an audience and who dressed like Hamlet, or as much like the Dane as his slender funds would permit.

With the best of intentions, some of these ardent reformers could not, when placed in positions of trust, perform well because they had never been trained nor had the experience in

public affairs. This must, however, be added, that not many who got in unprepared for their work remained long. They either learned the work or got out of the job. They did accomplish something at any rate by arousing the people to a consciousness of what had been wrong. The ideals of some were lost sight of after victory. There were passes over railroads and there was enforced political contribution. Some of the devotees mixed their drinks, though they wanted in their offices no outside party associates. The fusionists wanted no G.O.P.'s to work beside them. There was a political purge up and down. Many valuable servants were lost when the augean stables were cleansed but the whole condition was better than the fraud in contracts and the padded payrolls and inferior goods furnished that had been very generally practiced just before the fusion reforms.

The party itself, both national and state, performed in its decade of service a wonderful duty. Child welfare, franchise for women, fairness to poor and rich alike, adequate opportunity for all--basically these were things sought. Transportation of grain and other commodities at equal cost without secret rebates, fair passenger rates, equal opportunities for elevator service in handling of grain--such things were urged, vociferously urged. The various political parties since the days of progressive fusion have taken up a large share of these reforms and many acts toward these varied ends have since been passed. The fusionists of 1890 to 1900 were called insane; but it was a college professor, raised to the rank of President of the United States, who solemnly announced a world war to end all war.* Woodrow Wilson borrowed that theory from a branch of medical science. *Similia similibus curantur* was never a pronouncement of the populists. The world would have scoffed at such a theory, if promulgated by Cyclone Davis. The world laughed at others really basically meliorative and after mature thought adopted them as sound panacea. Later Democratic, Republican, and Bull Moose--they all borrowed Populist doctrine. And look now upon the New Deal!

Silas A. Holcomb was himself no fundamental and deep radical. He believed in certain reforms--believed intensely in

* The author should note that Wilson did not begin a war to end war but proposed to transform the purpose of a going war so that it would be the last war. His high purpose was not achieved. —JLS.

them. But he was no iconoclast; he was a progressive. His plan was always to convince and change things by process of law. In a general way, his attitude was similar to that of the great Lincoln. The best proof of his middle attitude between radicalism and conservatism is that he was chosen early in the development of Populism and remained as a leader after the party had become moribund. He was really fair in big problems, though he desired, as all of the leaders of the day, to reward his fellow partisans. To the victors, the spoils. The tower of the Capitol was painted 16 square feet of gray and 1 square foot of bright yellow as a token of 16 to 1—Bryan's cure for our national troubles.

The complaint against the Governor by many of his followers was that he was too conservative--entirely too slow in putting his progressive ideals into practice. He spoke of this criticism against his conduct of the office. "If I didn't know exactly what to do, I always waited," he told me. In this was one of his weaknesses as an executive. The rule of Theodore Roosevelt was better: "I always try to settle a matter right. I use my best judgment. But finally I act even if not absolutely sure. Things must be done. Corrections may be made. No fielder gets 1,000 on the score sheet."

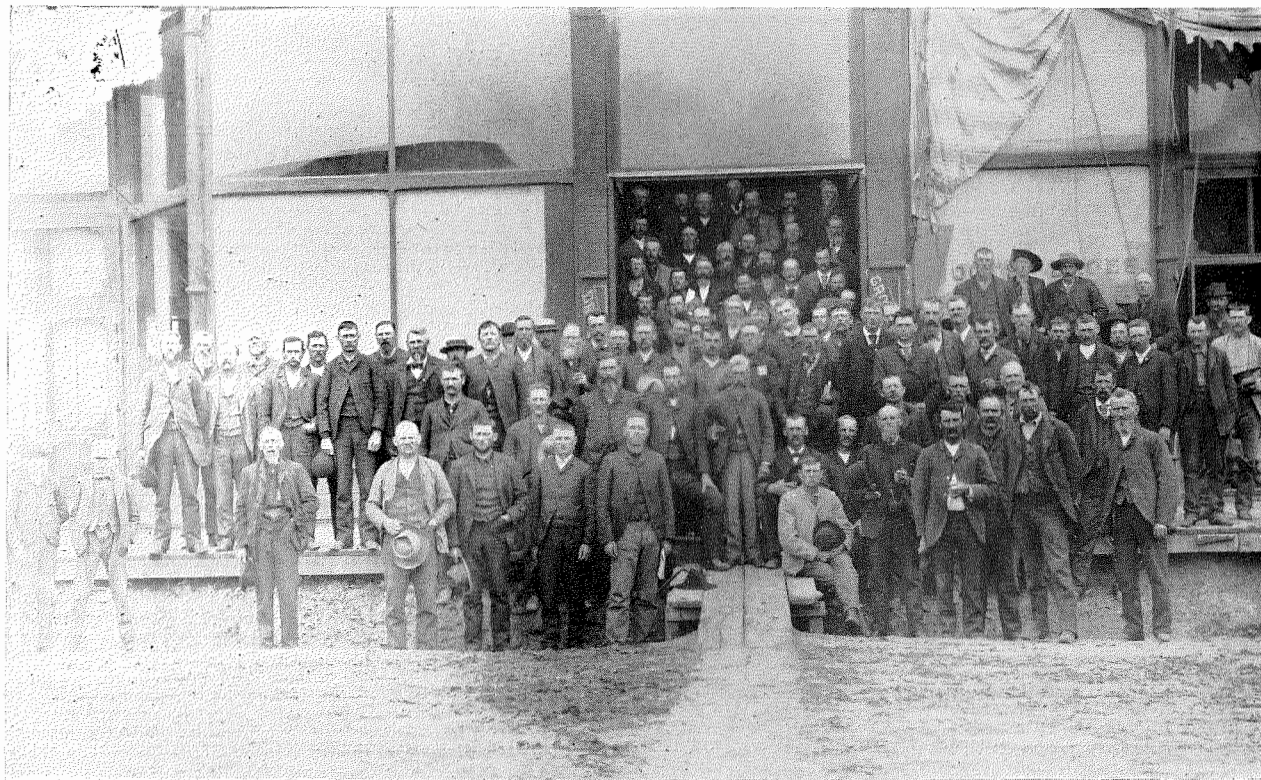
Holcomb was fundamentally honest. In the midst of most gruelling campaigns, his consistency stood up. No public money stuck to his fingers. There were no backstairs for henchmen. He died a comparatively poor man. But there were charges made repeatedly and some of these were true. I repeat briefly:

It was charged that he was a chattel mortgage shark before becoming district judge and copies of mortgages and mortgage notes were printed time and again. The one cataloging "the spotted cow called Speck and one boar black pig" got into rhyme and prose.

The acceptance of railroad passes and appointment of incompetent partisan underlings were condemned.

The receiving of house rental money at the hands of the partisan legislature was assailed as unconstitutional.

The loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars through the Bartley defalcation (though Bartley was an elected Republican treasurer) was charged to Holcomb on the ground that the Gov-



POPULIST CONVENTION FOR THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
JULY 15, 1890, COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA

O. M. Kem, fellow townsman of Holcomb, was nominated by the Convention
and elected Nebraska's first Populist Congressman.

ernor had not demanded an adequate bond from the State Treasurer.

The newspapers played these up pro and con, through all of the Holcomb period. But the people did not take the charges seriously. I have told of the attitude of the Omaha *Bee* elsewhere. The *World-Herald* under young Hitchcock was progressive along the whole line rather than a Holcomb organ. The *State Journal*, with Charles Gere and Will Owen Jones, furnished the assaulting column. J. Sterling Morton, editor of the *Conservative* and W. J. Bryan with the *Commoner*, both weeklies, indulged in personal comment in organs, neither of which paid financial dividends. They were respectively against and for the reformer.

In this medley of charge and counter charge one writer got across. It was Bix (Ammi L. Bixby) who conducted a column called "Daily Drift" in the *Nebraska State Journal*. He had been thrown out of the practice of medicine and had turned to writing. Young fellows who never knew his timely writings and his genial personality have missed much in life. His heart was young, buoyant and kind. What a joy to see him roll from one end of a croquet ground to the other when his side had hit the stake! Or stand on the side-line while he and Governor Charles W. Bryan in later years shot bottle-pool at the Chamber of Commerce, hurling insults and cries of fraud at each other! When the game was over Bix and Brother Charlie would grab hold of each other, grinning as two urchins, who had been indulging in a game of keeps behind the hotel in an alley and would start toward the elevator.

In "Daily Drift" Bix razed everybody and everything. He took pleasure in his parodies of the "Red Rose" poem of a United States senator who was an orator but not much better as a rhymster than the freshman college lad who has fallen in love with a senior girl. The Senator had apostrophied the rose pinned on his coat by a much younger actress. He had given it to the press.

"I said to my Rose,

O Rose, sweet Rose!"

How Bix leaped at that poem! Day after day there was a twist. Rose became nose, toes, pose and a hundred other different things.

Naturally Bix worked on themes from the Demo-Pop lead-

ers. He made fun of Bryan, Windy Allen and Holcomb. (It was reported, maybe without foundation in fact, that he contributed to the Holcomb campaigns while writing funny verses against Silas in his column.)

Advice to Bryan by Bix

You are wanted in Kentucky, Colonel Bryan, so they say,
But the party feuds are brewing, and you'd better keep
away.

With the present state of feeling and division in the ranks,
If you go to making speeches you will get more kicks than
thanks.

* * *

We have hold of Silas Holcomb, and we never will let go
Till we have him "on the hog train" ticketed to Broken
Bow.

When you come back, Colonel Bryan, strong of lungs, but
weak of nerves

You will find that Sordid Silas has received what he
deserves.

State Journal
October 7, 1899

To Silas A. Holcomb by Bix

After all is said and done,
Silas Holcomb,

We have got you on the run,
Silas Holcomb,

In about a month or so,
When returns are in, I know,
You'll go back to Broken Bow,
Silas Holcomb,

M. B. Reese, the tried and true,
Silas Holcomb,

Is a better man than you,
Silas Holcomb,

In his record not a flaw,
Brightest man you ever saw--
He has knowledge of the law,
Silas Holcomb,

You are swift enough on rent,
Silas Holcomb,

You can figure cent per cent,
 Silas Holcomb,
 In the happy days of old,
 Not so long ago, I'm told,
 Chattel loans were your best hold,
 Silas Holcomb,

When you heard the widow's groans,
 Silas Holcomb,
 It was restful to your bones,
 Silas Holcomb,
 When in such unhappy straits
 You could name much higher rates--
 Silas Holcomb,

I had thought to write no more,
 Silas Holcomb,
 Of that storm-cloud colored boar,
 Silas Holcomb,
 Of the poor old spotted cow,
 But I think you will allow
 I am justified right now,
 Silas Holcomb,

In this campaign never doubt,
 Silas Holcomb,
 All your sins will find you out,
 Silas Holcomb,
 And their history complete,
 When you find that you are beat,
 Will account for your defeat,
 Silas Holcomb,

State Journal, October 5, 1899

Among the practical things accomplished during the Holcomb quadrennium as Governor were the relief activities in behalf of western drought sufferers, aid to irrigation, formal adoption of the Golden Rod as state flower and Tree Planter State as a descriptive appellation, entertainment of national characters after Bryan became a presidential candidate, the Spanish-American War and the Transmississippi Exposition at Omaha. There was also the Otto Mutz committee for a special investigation of state officers and institutions. Reference is elsewhere in this address made to the fact that under long tenure the conditions in various

departments of Nebraska State administration were none too good. It has been stated that upright Governor Lorenzo Crouse had become convinced of shady doings and for that reason had declined absolutely to consider nomination for a second term.

In those days, the governor of Nebraska had a sort of personal guard of honor. This was composed largely of partisan brothers who had money enough to buy the somewhat elaborate uniforms demanded. These officers were given brevet rank, running down from colonel, I believe to captain. They made a fine photograph whenever a battleship or public building had to be dedicated. The attention pleased these worthies, their friends and relatives, and besides the governor was then absolved from tendering an appointment with some financial return.

On Holcomb's staff of military men was Charles W. Bryan, who himself served later as both mayor of Lincoln and Governor. Colonel Bryan* has allowed me to copy a letter from Governor Holcomb.

June 9, 1898

Col. Charles W. Bryan

Lincoln, Nebraska,

My dear Colonel:- I am expected to attend with my military staff the exercises incident to Nebraska Day at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, Tuesday, June 14. If you can find it convenient, I should be pleased to have you accompany me on that occasion. We expect to leave Lincoln on the Burlington at eight o'clock the morning of that day. Full dress uniform is expected to be worn. Please reply promptly.

With personal regards,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Silas A. Holcomb

* Deceased since this address was delivered. —N.C.A.