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THE EFFECT OF THE POPULIST MOVEMENT ON KANSAS STATE
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,

by

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PREFACE

As a party the Populists did not accomplish a great deal but they did force the other parties to act upon their demands and so secured many Populistic aims.

The party was vitally interested in the advancement of the farmers and it was natural that it should endeavor to aid them when it could. Once in power it set about to give the farmers new ideas and thoughts that would show them the way out of their dilemma. This was done in part through the introduction of new subjects in the Kansas State Agricultural College¹ curriculum. When the staid Republican faculty resented the change and did not cooperate as well as the Populists felt they should the party uprooted the old faculty and brought in a new.

Kansas yet has many people who were ardent Populists and others who as vehemently hated anything Populistic. Even after thirty-five years, feeling toward the third party is bitter among those persons who felt themselves injured by its actions. Some still express their distaste

¹ The name of the Kansas State Agricultural College was changed on March 9, 1931, to Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science.

for the Populists while a few of the stand-patters even refuse to talk of the nineties. One of them wrote on December 7, 1931: "For more than thirty years I have been trying hard to forget the experiences of 1897. I have so well succeeded that I really have nothing to offer that would be of any assistance."

On the other hand, a man who came to the College as a youth, remained through the student period, became a member of the faculty, stood firm through Republican control, Populist control, and again through the return of the Republicans to power is at this time the only member of the faculty of Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science who served continuously through the 'revolution'. To Dr. Julius T. Willard, who has served the college from 1883 to the present time, I am deeply indebted for scientific and non-partisan discussions on the Populist movement.

I have had access to material on the Populist movement in the Library of Congress, at the Kansas State Historical Society Library, Kansas State College Library, and the Manhattan Public Library, and have had the use of the private collection of Dr. Julius T. Willard.

I have also had personal interviews with Mr. George H. Failyer and Mr. Curtis B. Daughters, participants

in the events of this period.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Librarians who have given me their assistance in finding materials upon this subject, and to the staff in the Registrar's office, the Business office of the Kansas State College, and to the several faculty members who have given me aid.

I am also indebted to Professor Charles M. Correll for his helpful suggestions and to Dr. Fred A. Shannon for his guidance in the development of this study.

POPULIST CONTROL OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

I

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the agricultural West underwent a significant change. In the early day of western settlement the pioneer had come in a covered wagon, had staked his claim, and had raised nearly everything he needed for the support of his family. The West lent itself naturally to large-scale farming. The lack of labor could be supplied by the new farm machines, but they were so expensive that comparatively few farmers had the ready money to buy them. With the closing of the frontier and the rising price of land, the lot of the small-scale farmers became increasingly difficult. They had to mortgage their farms in order to buy the machinery without which they could not compete with the large-farm owners. When crop failures and periodic depression in agricultural prices added to their woes, many gave up the struggle and became farm laborers or tenants. By 1900, 35 percent. of all the farms were cultivated by tenant farmers, and farm mortgages amounted to more than a billion dollars.

It was under such conditions as these that the organization known as the People's Party came to the front in the campaign of 1890. The object of the party was to secure relief for the farming and laboring classes. The justification of this object was found in the decline of prices and in the heavy weight of debts, made doubly burdensome by the change in money standards. Legislation was looked upon as the means to secure improved conditions; hence the formation of a political party.

The complaint of the party was that the prices of farm products were low, that the farmers' revenue was much less than formerly, and that monopolies were crushing the small producer and taxing the consumer. The first two conditions were declared to be the result of financial, the last of industrial legislation. Although the party included a part of the discontented of the towns and cities, it can best be defined as a class movement, chiefly confined, so far as membership was concerned, to men engaged in agriculture.

There were three stages of advancement in farmers' associations, which may be typified by the Grange, the Farmers' Alliances, and the People's Party. The aim of the Grange was to educate the farmer and protect its members by influence only. The Farmers' Alliances

were a combination of independent agricultural lodges and associations. One of these started in Texas as early as 1879 and developed in a few years into a well-organized association. There were also other societies in the North and South which, together with those mentioned, went to make up the party.²

Many members of the societies had been attracted by the third party idea, although it was not until 1890 that any great progress was made in the matter. In this year began a series of conventions which finally resulted in the formation of the party.

The first meeting in which the idea of a third party appeared was held in St. Louis on December 6, 1889. It consisted of delegates from the Farmers' Alliances and from the Knights of Labor. The object was to effect a union between the two classes, which was accomplished under the name of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union. Although this organization deferred its entrance into politics as a party, it, nevertheless, passed some resolutions advocating the free coinage of

² Frank L. McVey, "The Populist Movement," in American Economic Studies (New York, 1896), Vol. I. No. 5, p. 136.

silver, abolition of national banks, sub-treasuries, large issuance of paper money, government ownership of railroads, non-ownership of land by foreigners, prohibition of dealing in futures in grain, and the reduction of the nation's income to the equivalent of necessary expenses.³

On December 7, 1890, another convention was held at Ocala, Florida. The composition of this assembly was somewhat different from that of the preceding one. Members of the Southern Alliance, the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association, and the Colored Alliance were present.

Here again the third party idea remained unpronounced. The platform issued at Ocala differed in very few respects from that of 1889. The sub-treasury scheme was not endorsed as in the year before, and the demand for government ownership of railroads and telegraphs changed to government control. A reduction of heavy tariff duties was demanded; this being the only out and out demand of the kind made in any of the platforms. The others contented themselves with the state-

³ New York Times, December 8-9, 1889.

ment that the revenue of the state should be limited to expenses.

At the meeting in Cincinnati in May, 1891, some 1500 delegates from various agricultural and labor organizations represented two-thirds of the states. Out of this number 407 were from Kansas, 317 from Ohio, and 100 from Illinois.⁴ The majority of the assembly was farmers, while the remainder consisted of representatives of various labor societies. The purposes of the men were widely divergent and the movement to make a third party was by no means unanimous throughout the country. This group sent a call for the meeting of the first national convention of the People's Party at Omaha, Nebraska, July 2, 1892.⁵

The Populists demanded the free and unlimited coinage of silver, plenty of paper money, a graduated income tax, postal savings banks, government ownership of railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, the suppression of alien ownership of land, the eight-hour day for industrial labor, a single term for the president, and the direct election of United States senators.⁶

⁴ Ibid., May 19-20, 1891.
⁵ McVey, op. cit., p. 139.
⁶ Ibid., p. 142.

Although these proposals were greeted by non-Populists as preposterous, it is interesting to note that some of the political changes and economic reforms advocated by the Populists have been adopted during the past thirty-five years.

The Populist Party brought to the public eye some outstanding people from Kansas. The names of Jerry Simpson, Frank Foster, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Lease, W. F. Rightmire, William A. Peffer, and J. M. Dunsmore were heard for many years.

In Kansas the Populist party was a factor that neither the Republican nor the Democratic Party dared overlook. It exercised such power from 1890 to 1900 that it was able to elect governors, control the legislature, and make itself felt in every political office of the state.

The year 1889 was an off year politically when no elections were held except for a few county officials and to fill vacancies. In the fourth congressional district a special election was held to choose a successor to Thomas Ryan, who had resigned to accept the appointment as minister to Mexico. The Republicans nominated Harrison Kelley, and he was elected without opposition.⁷ Two state senators and one member of the

⁷ "Seventh Biennial Report of Secretary of State" in Public Documents (Topeka, 1890) Vol. 1, p. 95.

lower house of the legislature were elected to fill vacancies, and in each case the Republican candidate was elected by a large majority. Cloud and Cowley counties elected Union Labor and Peoples' tickets. The early traditions of Kansas were Republican, and the people of the state had scarcely faltered in their devotion to the party. Only once a Democratic governor was elected, and then for only one term of two years. As late as 1888, Kansas stood for Republican fidelity. It looked as though she should never change, yet when Populist orators resorted to ridicule of the two elder parties the new party gained strength.

In the campaign of 1890 the Populist state ticket⁸ was not strong enough to develop a sufficient following to make an effective campaign. None of the nominees survived to lead the party in future campaigns. Colonel L. L. Polk, national president of the Southern Alliance, came from North Carolina to campaign for the new party.⁹

⁸ The state ticket was as follows: Governor, J. F. Willits; lieutenant governor, A. C. Shinn; chief justice, W. F. Rightmire; secretary of state, R. L. Osborne; treasurer of state, W. H. Biddle; attorney general, John M. Ives; auditor of state, B. F. Foster (colored); superintendent of public instruction, Mrs. Fannie McCormick.

⁹ Topeka Capital, clipping from People's Party Clippings, Kansas State Historical Society Library, Topeka.

One of the principal speakers was Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Lease, who brought to the public ear the phrase "The thing for the farmers to do is to raise less corn and more hell."

The year 1891 saw the editor of the Kansas Farmer, William A. Peffer, elected to the United States Senate, and the editor of the Ottawa Journal, Edwin H. Snow, chosen for state printer by the legislature in joint session.

In 1892 the entire Populist state ticket was elected.¹⁰ The party also elected its candidates for Congress in the third, fifth, sixth, and seventh districts, while the Republicans carried the first, second and fourth. The new state Senate consisted of twenty-three Populists, fifteen Republicans and two Democrats but in the lower house of the legislature there were only fifty-eight Populists to sixty-three Republicans, two Democrats, and one independent. In one district the vote resulted

¹⁰ Governor, L. D. Leavelle; lieutenant governor, Percy Daniels; secretary of state, R. S. Osborne; attorney general, John T. Little; treasurer of state, W. H. Biddle; auditor of state, Van B. Prather; superintendent of public instruction, H. N. Gaines; supreme court justice, Stephen H. Allen.

in a tie between the Republican and the Populist candidates.¹¹

The Populists had won a great victory; they had the offices and would control the public patronage. But the party wanted to control both houses of the legislature and enact its ideas into law, and the loss of one branch of the legislature would check this plan and practically nullify the victory.

The Populist governor had carried 57 of the 106 counties of the state, and it seemed improbable that the same counties had returned a Republican majority for one of the branches of the legislature. Charges of illegal voting began to come in from the various counties. It was claimed that one of the successful Republicans had taken a homestead in Oklahoma and was not eligible to hold office in Kansas. Four were postmasters, disqualified for the legislature by the

¹¹ "Eighth Biennial Report of Secretary of State" in Public Documents, Vol. 1 (1892) pp. 97-128. The tie case was settled by a board of canvassers who found the Republicans entitled to the seat, thus giving them sixty-four votes. One Republican owed his election to an error. His opponent, a Democrat, had received a majority but the county clerk had transposed the figures in making the return, and the Republican received the certificate of election. The supreme court corrected the error.

state constitution. With a dozen Republican members under suspicion, the Populists grew strong in the belief that they had elected a majority to the lower house and were being defrauded of it.¹² As a result there was a legislative war.

The new governor and other state officials were inaugurated January 9, 1893. The two branches of the legislature organized the following day. There was no trouble in the Senate, but in the House each party had elected its candidate for speaker: the Republicans, George L. Douglas; the Populists, J. M. Dunmore. The law provided that on the day of organization, the secretary of state should lay before the House the list of members elected, and should preside until the members had been sworn in and had elected a presiding officer from their own number. The secretary of state was there, but the Republican members objected to him as the presiding officer. The official roll gave the Republicans a majority but the Populists were prepared to contest some of their seats. The Republicans feared that with a Populist presiding officer the contested

¹² E. S. Waterbury, The Legislative Conspiracy. Populist pamphlet issued in 1893 at Topeka. pp. 5-7.

members would be prevented from voting and the Populists would organize the House. When the secretary found he was not to be permitted to preside he left the House and took the official roll of members with him.¹³ As soon as the secretary left the hall, the floor leaders of the two parties called the House to order, motions were made and carried, members sworn in, officers elected, and two sets of messengers sent to inform the Senate and governor that the House was organized.

The Populist and Republican houses continued to meet in the same hall, but agreed to meet at different times. The Republicans used the hall in the mornings, the Populists used it in the afternoons. The governor recognized the Dunsmore house, as did the majority of the senate—twenty-two members, or all of the Populist senators except one. The fifteen Republican senators, the two Democrats, and the one Populist refused to recognize the Dunsmore house and declared for the Douglas house.¹⁴

¹³ Whether the secretary in carrying off the roll or the Republicans in refusing to let him preside erred most became a big point in discussion at the time; each side trying to put the other in the wrong.

¹⁴ E. W. Hoch, *The Last War*, Republican pamphlet issued at Topeka, 1893; pp. 19-23. Waterbury, *Op. cit.*, pp. 9-14.

Some attempts were made to get together. The Populists offered to submit the controversy to a committee of three, composed of Justice Stephen H. Allen, the Populist member of the supreme court, chief justice, Albert H. Horton of the same body, and Judge Cassius G. Foster, of the federal court, but this offer was turned down by the Republicans. The Republicans insisted upon submitting the case to the supreme court of which two of the three members were Republicans. This in turn was refused by the Populists.¹⁵

Then came the election of a United States senator. A majority of the members of both houses was required to elect. The Republicans had seventy-nine votes on joint ballot, the Democrats five, and the Populists eighty-one members with certificates of election. The new United States senate had but three Populists in it. The Democratic party had the controlling majority, and no senator from Kansas could be seated without the approval of that party. Thus the Democrats held the balance of power in the legislature and were masters

¹⁵ Hoch, op. cit., pp. 23-30

of the situation. Their candidate was John Martin.¹⁶

After a bitter fight Martin was nominated. On January 25 he was elected on joint ballot, receiving eighty-six votes, five of which were by members whose seats were being contested.¹⁷ The Republicans refused to vote, and sent a protest to Washington. On January 27 Snow was reelected state printer, receiving a clear majority of votes.

Then the Populists got busy and unseated ten Republicans; the Republicans in turn unseated four Populists.¹⁸ After the session was more than a month old the Douglas house made a move that brought matters to a crisis.

Ben C. Rich, chief clerk of the Dunsmore house, was arrested for contempt.¹⁹ The sergeant at arms arrested Rich at his hotel and started with him for the house. On the way some of Rich's Populist friends

¹⁶ The Populists were indebted to John Martin and there was no other way out. The election of state printer was hanging in the balance; Mr. Snow could not be re-elected except by the aid of Democratic votes, and he could not get them unless the Populists voted for Martin.

¹⁷ The United States Senate seated Martin.

¹⁸ Waterbury, op. cit., p. 24

¹⁹ Rich was calling roll and otherwise transacting the business of his office.

rescued him by force. Both sides began to arm. The governor called out the militia.²⁰ The next morning the members and employees of the Douglas house gathered at the Copeland hotel and marched in a body to the state house, where the door of Representative Hall was smashed open with a sledge hammer.²¹ Peace was made by an almost complete backdown by the Populists, and after forty-eight hours of armed but bloodless hostilities the war was over. The Douglas house held possession of Representative hall; the proceedings against Ben Rich were dropped; the Dunsmore house proceeded with its business in another part of the state house, and the question of legality between the two houses was left to be decided by the supreme court.²²

The Dunsmore house during the next few days passed the railroad maximum-freight bill, "the anti-Pinkerton bill" to prohibit the use of private detectives by railroad corporations, the Australian ballot, "World's Fair bill," corrupt practices bill, and the bill giving a debtor eighteen months in which to redeem his land

²⁰ Biennial Message of Governor L. D. Leveiling, delivered January 9, 1893. Public Documents, 1893-94 Vol. 1, p. 27.

²¹ Waterbury, op. cit., p. 25

²² Topeka Capital, february 22, 1893.

after it had been sold under mortgage. The last four became laws, being taken up by the Douglas house and passed with such modifications as were necessary to purge them of Dunsmore taint.²³

On Saturday, February 25, the supreme court announced its decision upholding the Douglas house. The following Monday the Dunsmore house seated its certificated members in the representative hall, with the exception of the four unseated by the Douglas house and the two houses got to work, as only a very few days of the session remained.²⁴

23

Topeka Capital, March 1, 1893

24 Ibid., February 26, 1893.

THE UPHRAVAL

II

Incidents of political character had been frequent in the early history of the Kansas State Agricultural College. In 1863 the enforced resignation of two professors was attributed to the action of new regents appointed by the democratic governor, George W. Glick. The political press of the state was ablaze with denunciations and defense of the regents actions. In 1891 the College Symposium said "The sessions of the state legislature have had no influence upon its [Kansas State College] course of study or the quality of its work, and changes in the composition of the board have hardly caused a ripple. Every new regent becomes impressed at once with the superior management of the whole institution."¹

At this time the government of the College rested with a board of regents, composed of seven persons: one, the president of the college, was a member ex-officio; the others were members by appointment of the governor,

¹ College Symposium of the Kansas State Agricultural College (Topeka, 1891), p. 45.

with the advice and consent of the senate. The term of office was three years. The board had "full and complete power to adopt and enforce all necessary rules and regulations required under the law for the government of said institution. They shall make all appointments of officers, principals, teachers and employees which may be required for the practical and economic management thereof."²

In 1893, influenced by the Populists, the board of regents began a program of broadening the curriculum of the college. Since the party was primarily interested in financial and economic conditions it is not surprising that the Minutes of the Board of Regents, contained the following: "The Board of Regents meeting at 4:30 P.M. June 14, 1893. Upon motion of Regent Kelley, Regents Secrest, Fairchild and Stratford were appointed a special committee to present a scheme for introducing a course³

² Laws Relating to Kansas State Agricultural College, Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, 1885, Sec. 13, p. 19. "An act entitled an act to provide for the appointment of regents and trustees, for the control of the public institutions of the state and defending certain powers thereof." This act became effective March 13, 1873.

³ Minutes of the Board of Regents of the Kansas State Agricultural College, Vol. B, p. 19.

of lectures on money and finance."

On June 15, 1893, the special committee to devise a plan for the lectures reported as follows: "Your committee recommend that a series of weekly lectures upon prominent economic and financial questions be provided during the fall and spring terms of each year, for all classes of students, and that the special winter course of lectures for farmers embrace an additional course."⁴ A committee was then appointed to report at the next meeting the list of names of people suitable to present lectures in the subjects referred to in the above report.⁵ The special committee to engage lecturers was authorized to expend not to exceed \$25.00 and expenses for each lecture course.

On January 24, 1894, Regent Ed. Secrest moved that the economic course of lectures be discontinued from that date, except as already provided for the short course of lectures for farmers. The motion pending, the board adjourned.⁶

⁴ Ibid., p. 21

⁵ Under this plan Mary Elizabeth Lease lectured in November, 1893. Minutes of the Faculty of Kansas State Agricultural College, Vol. C, p. 116.

⁶ Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, p. 32

On April 6, 1894, the following resolution offered by Regent Hoffman was carried.

"Whereas, it is important that the Agricultural classes, from the ranks of which the majority of the students of the college come, understand the economic laws which underlie all civilization, and,

"Whereas, the Board of Regents is of the opinion that less time and attention than the importance of the subject demands have been given to it, either in the regular course of study or in lectures on this and germane subjects, therefore, be it,

"Resolved, that thirteen lectures of one hour each of political economy [be given] by some member of the Faculty or by some other competent person designated or employed by the Board of Regents. These lectures are to take the place of the Friday afternoon lectures heretofore given by the Faculty on various topics. They shall be distributed as may best suit the best interests of the Faculty and students, but shall be given in the fall and winter terms.

"These lectures shall treat of the subject political economy consecutively, commencing with the primary concepts of the science, treating fully and dispassionately the various economic and social problems.

"These lectures shall be non-partisan, but shall not ignore nor unfairly treat the positions taken by what is commonly known as the new school of political economists. The principles maintained by the advocates of land nationalization, public control of public utilities, and the reform of the financial and monetary systems shall be fairly stated and candidly examined, with a view of leading the students to grasp the principles involved in the science of production and distribution without bias or prejudice."⁷

On June 14, 1894, Professor Ernest R. Nichols was granted leave of absence for one year, beginning September 1, 1894. The next day this resolution made by Regent Harrison Kelley was adopted:

"Resolved; that President Fairchild and the Faculty be and are hereby instructed to so arrange the duties and positions occupied by the professors and instructors as to fill the vacancy caused by leave of absence granted to Professor Nichols, and leave vacant instead some full chair which shall include Political Economy; and that this rearrangement be submitted to the Board of

⁷ Ibid., p. 43.

Regents for their action at their meeting July 17, 1894, and further,

"Resolved; that the Committee on Employees open correspondence with educators and educational institutions for the purpose of securing a competent professor to fill the Chair of Political Economy, at an annual salary not exceeding \$1600 and that said committee have authority to invite one or more persons to appear before the Board of Regents at their July meeting as applicants for said position, for the action of Board of Regents."⁸

On July 18, 1894, the committee on employees presented the names of candidates for the chair of Political Economy as follows: namely, Professor Thomas E. Will,⁹ of Boston, Massachusetts, the Reverend V. H. Biddison, of Marysville, Kansas, and President Charles O. Merica, of Maryville, Missouri. Messrs. Will and Biddison, being present, were invited to present informally before the

⁸ President George T. Fairchild was at this time professor of logic and political science.

⁹ George T. Fairchild, "Populism in a State Educational Institution, the Kansas State Agricultural College" in American Journal of Sociology Vol. 3, November, 1897, p. 395 said, "Regent Hoffman undertook the correspondence, and at the suggestion of B. O. Flower, then editor of the Arena, invited T. E. Will to meet the board at the expense of the college in July."

board their views upon teaching political economy. After listening to these gentlemen, the board adjourned to 9 A.M. July 19.

Upon convening, the following report was adopted. "Your Committee on Employees, having been authorized by resolution to recommend a suitable person for the Chair of Political Economy, as provided in the last meeting of the Board, and to invite such a person or persons to appear before the Board at this meeting, report that after correspondence with various parties, Professor Thomas E. Will, of Boston, Massachusetts, was invited, and is present at this meeting. The Committee have also considered the other applicants for this position and after full consideration of the men and their testimonials, we recommend that Professor Thomas E. Will be employed as Professor of Political Economy with such other duties as may be practicable, at a salary of \$1600 for the year beginning September 1st, next."¹⁰

By September 23, 1894, the regents had "Resolved, That Higher Mathematics and Political Economy be added as electives to the Post Graduate course, and be counted

¹⁰ Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, p. 56.

at the option of the student in lieu of other studies now required in the course, for Post Graduates."¹¹

Following this resolution, Professor Will was requested to offer suggestions "on the importance of increased facilities in the study of economic science at this college, and the necessity for the purchase of books."¹² As a result of the suggestions by Will, the regents appropriated seventy-five dollars for books, pamphlets, and periodicals for the Library on Political Economy, under the direction of Professor Will.¹³

In January of the following year, Professor Will was invited to state to the board of regents his wishes in regard to extending the course in political economy. Will presented the advantages of increasing the opportunities for study of political economy in the course. Regent Hoffman then offered the following resolution, which was adopted. "Resolved, That the Faculty, through the President, submit to the Board of Regents at its next meeting, for approval or rejection, written reports of a change of the course of study, which will permit the

¹¹ Ibid., p. 65.

¹² Ibid., p. 67

¹³ Ibid., p. 68

introduction of the study of Economic Science, not later than the first term of the third year, and will give not less than six terms of study of Economic Sciences, including one term of History, one term of Civics, and one term of Psychology.¹⁴

At the faculty meeting on March 1, 1895, Professor George H. Failyer moved that the order of the board of regents concerning increasing the requirements in political economy be made the special order for the next meeting.¹⁵

A week later, the following resolution was presented before the faculty meeting by Professor D. E. Lantz: "Resolved, that it is the opinion of the Faculty that the introduction of two more terms in Economic Science in our general course of study is impracticable since there is no other study that it would be wise to omit." After discussion it was moved by Professor Failyer that further consideration of the matter be deferred till next meeting when it should be made the special order for the meeting.¹⁶ On March 25, 1895, the subject was again

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 70 February 7, 1895

¹⁵ Minutes of the Faculty, Vol. C, p. 292.
March 11, 1895.

¹⁶ Ibid., pp. 293-294

called up and Professor Lantz was allowed to withdraw his resolution. Professor Failyer then presented a protest against the increase of requirements in political economy in the course, and moved that a committee of five be appointed by the president, whose duty it should be to present to the faculty, for recommendation to the board, a report in general conformity with the protest just read, which should include such schemes for the increase of this study in the course as might be provided for by the faculty. The question was then divided and that portion of the motion which provided for the appointment of a committee was put and carried. The committee appointed was composed of Professors George H. Failyer, Edwin A. Popenoe, John D. Walters, Ozni P. Hood, and Thomas E. Hill.

The Faculty then voted upon the items in the protest for the instruction of the committee.

"Item 1 That students now have full work in the course.

"Item 2 That there are no branches now taught that should be omitted from such a course of study. [These two items were not adopted.]¹⁷

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 295, March, 1895.

"Item 3 That this line of study (Economic Science) already has as great prominence in the course as any other. (adopted)¹⁸ A motion was made but lost to amend Item 3 by adding the words "in proportion to its importance."

"Item 4 That a course which brought eminent success and reputation should not be abandoned for a proposed innovation.

"Item 5 That the only way by which additional economic study can be added to the course would be by substituting it for studies now required, or by making it elective with them, and in either case students would be allowed to graduate without having had such studies as we have considered essential to such an education as should be given here. (adopted)

"Item 6 Previous careful consideration has confirmed us in the belief that the course should not be divided nor electives introduced in our limited four year course but we favor the extension of the course to five years for those who elect. (adopted)

"Item 7 A protest against any change as contemplated in the action of the Board. (Professor Will moved that this item be laid on the table. Lost)

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 297.

"Item 8 In case the Board should still decide to increase the requirements in the present four year course in economic science the following schemes are offered as least harmful.

"Item 9 An advantage may be gained by transposing the geology and the political economy now in the course. We also recommend that political economy be made elective against agriculture, hygiene, veterinary science, floriculture, physics, engineering and literature in the fourth-year groups, the studies to be arranged that students so desiring may take two terms of elective political economy." The report, as amended, was then adopted.¹⁹

On March 29, 1895 the special committee appointed at the last previous meeting reported that the course of study provided full work for all students and that the line of study including history, psychology, civics, and economics already had greater prominence than other lines of study. They further stated that the only way in which additional economic work could be provided would be by crowding out work now given, or by introducing elective work, which in either case would permit students to graduate without having had studies considered essential

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 293.

by then, to an education such as the Kansas State Agricultural College should provide. A year before this the faculty had devoted several weeks to the consideration of changes in the course of study and had decided by an almost unanimous vote, against introducing elective work. Instead, they encouraged students who desired extended work to take five years for graduation, thus devoting the equivalent of a year's work to elective studies. They recommended that students desiring to extend their work be permitted to elect studies from the beginning of the fourth year.²⁰

At the faculty meeting on April 8, 1895, President Fairchild reported that the board had adopted the recommendations of the faculty. Political economy and geology were transposed and a five year course leading to the degree of Master of Science was arranged.

The board in their ninth Biennial Report to the governor, justified the changes made in the curriculum at the college as follows: "Your board of regents, in coming in contact with the sons and daughters of the state... have realized more than ever that it is not a lack of industry, or unfavorable methods of farming,

²⁰ Ibid., pp. 300-301.

or unfavorableness of climate which have caused the widespread and steadily increasing poverty among the agricultural and laboring classes.... He [the farmer] has produced enough of the useful and necessary things of life that, with fair equitable exchange, would bring prosperity in place of poverty... and content and patriotism in place of unrest and dissatisfaction. It is hoped that giving more attention to the study of economic principles which govern the distribution of wealth will stimulate a healthy inquiry among the people into the causes that depress industry and paralyze agriculture. With this purpose in view, the board of regents has instituted the general course of lectures on political economy, already referred to, and has ranked the study of political economy... commensurate with its importance."²¹

"When the Populists elected their candidates in November, 1896, it was freely predicted that this would result in an overturning of things at the college, in which case President Fairchild would be removed and Professor Hill be made president, and the faculty would be largely replaced by new members in harmony with the

²¹ Kansas State Agricultural College Biennial Reports, No. 9 (Topeka, 1895), pp. 9-10.

belief of the party in power. Threats were made by Populists and fears were expressed by Republicans."²²

When the legislature met in January a bill was introduced proposing to change the term of office of the regents of the agricultural college, making them hold office for four years instead of three.

Since the beginning of the system of biennial sessions of the legislature, the college had been governed by a misfit law adopted during the system of annual sessions. Regents were appointed for three-year terms which often expired in off years. The governor then filled the vacancies by appointments, and the new regents entered upon their duties without senatorial confirmation.

The object of the new bill was to insure more experienced men by increasing the length of term and to secure prompt confirmation by the senate. The bill also removed the political advantage that a partisan governor would possess, because the majority of the board could not be changed by a governor in a single term. The president of the college was to be continued as a regent ex-officio, and the plan would have resulted finally in the appointment of three other regents each two years, to hold office for four years."

The bill was taken up by the Populists and amended to provide for the appointment of seven regents, five of whom were to be appointed on or before the first of April, 1897 and two to be appointed on or before the first day of April, 1898.²³ Of the five members appointed on or before the first day of April, 1897, one would hold his office until the first day of April, 1899, and four would hold their offices until the first day of April, 1901. The two who should be appointed on or before the first day 1898 would hold office until the first of April, 1899. The plan was that beginning on April 1, 1897, four regents would be appointed for four year terms and on April 1, 1899 three regents would be appointed for four year terms. This gave the governor who appointed the four regents power to fix the political complexion of the board for four years no matter what the result of the intervening election might be. The bill was passed by the Senate March 9, 1897 and was signed by the Governor March 13, 1897.²⁴ When the board met in April it consisted of five Populists, four of whom would hold office for four years according to the law, and two Republicans whose terms

²³ For Senate bill see appendix II.

²⁴ Senate Journal pp. 1001, 1201.

would expire in 1899.

Another bill which caused great alarm among the educational institutions of the state was the senate bill number 541, the famous "Fees and Salaries Bill" prepared and introduced by senator H. G. Jumper. This bill fixed maximum salaries for all positions in the University, Normal School, and Agricultural College, and for the various state officers from the governor down to the janitors. It also diminished the powers of the regents of the educational institutions.

Dr. J. T. Willard says:²⁵ "During the winter we had heard a pretty well authenticated rumor that it was the intention of the governor, through his board, to revolutionize things at the Agricultural College. After the 'revolution' we heard that each member of the board, before his appointment, was pledged to do the work.

"The revision of the law before described was not a necessary antecedent, as under the old law four members of the board would have been appointed. They would have held control for not more than two years, however, unless

²⁵ Dr. J. T. Willard was a member of the faculty during this period. He was graduated from the college in 1883 and became a member of the faculty. At the present time, (1932) he is the Vice-President of the college.

two of them were reappointed and confirmed after two years. Thus, the new law gave them opportunity to work their will for four years and so establish the new order.... The meeting of the new board was awaited with intense interest by all and anxiety by many. I was credibly informed that they [Hoffman and Kelley] wished to remove President Fairchild during the previous period of Populist power but were prevented by Goodyear and Secrest.²⁶ We expected Mrs. St. John to be a puppet in the control of the politicians. Of Regent Hudson, I knew nothing except that he was a Populist congressman at one time.

"At the customary dinner at which the board and faculty met there were a number of trifling incidents that suggested the smouldering volcano. At the joint session following, the board asked many questions of the speakers. Some of the members seemed very anxious to know just how many classes we met daily or weekly. Professor C. C. Georgeson was questioned nearly an hour.

²⁶ Substantiated in John D. Walters, History of Kansas State Agriculture College (Manhattan, Kansas, 1903) p. 96. President Fairchild lost his position in the political mele that followed the victory of the Populist party in 1896. Once before in 1893-94, the Board of Regents had been composed of Populists, but the aged educator, by his dignified demeanor and through the efforts of his personal friends (Regent Secrest and others) in the victorious camp, succeeded in maintaining his moorings."

He made a most surprising speech and was very self-damaging. He could not have cut his own throat more effectively. He gave a fine example of the utter absence of tact. Professor Failyer, as I recall, spoke the first evening. At a late hour the board adjourned to meet in joint session again the next evening to hear from the rest of us. I spoke the second evening. They questioned me a good deal and with what satisfaction, I do not know. Professor Failyer was not present the second evening. These meetings were Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, April 6 and 7, 1897.²⁷

"Thursday we heard nothing of the actions of the board, that I now recall, but Friday morning, April 9 (it happened to be the thirty-fifth anniversary of my birth), President Fairchild showed us a copy of the resolution²⁸ adopted by the board in which they declared

²⁷ According to the Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. 8, p. 129, the board met at 10 A.M. on April 7, 1897 with all members present. President Kelley announced standing committees as follows: Employees--Hoffman, St. John, Kelley; Finance--Limbocker, Noe, Daughters; Grounds and Buildings--Limbocker, Noe, Daughters, Hudson, Hoffman and St. John; Farm--Hudson, Limbocker, Kelley; Horticulture--St. John, Noe, Hudson.

²⁸ At the meeting of the board on April 7, 1897, at 1:30 P.M. Regent Hoffman presented in writing, the following resolution: "Resolved, That the term 'School Year,' employed in the act entitled 'An act making appropriation to the Kansas State Agricultural College for Current Expenses, for Freight, etc., etc., and directing the

(cont'd. on next page)

'that the term of employment of all present employes shall expire June 30, 1897'. They tried to make out that the law required it, but none of us could see that it did. It was a plan to save a couple of months' salary on a number of employees. Members of the faculty had been employed by the year beginning September 1 in almost every instance, and salary changes had taken effect September 1, unless

expenditure of other funds provided by law for the support of said institution' be interpreted to mean the period of thirty-nine (39) consecutive weeks beginning on the second Thursday in September of each year, and Resolved, That the term of employment of all the present employes is hereby declared to expire on June 10th, 1897."

Regent Daughters moved to postpone the consideration of these resolutions till eleven o'clock, Thursday morning, April 8th. This motion was carried.

At seven P.M. the same day the board met in joint meeting with the Faculty all present, except Professors Failyer, Walters, Brown, Cavanaugh and Will. Statements were made by those members of the Faculty, not heard at the previous meeting, and the Board adjourned.

At the board meeting on April 8, 1897, Regent Hoffman offered an amendment as follows: "Resolved, That the 'School Year' as employed in the act entitled "An act, etc.," shall begin July 1st of each year, and end June 30th of the following year; and that the term of employment of all the present employee shall expire June 30, 1897." Regent Daughters then offered an amendment as follows: "To strike out all after the words- 'the following year' and insert 'and that the rate of salary of all the employees of the college whose service is continuous shall continue as set by the board till June 30th of each year'." The amendment was lost. The motion to substitute was carried, and the original motion as amended by substitution was adopted. Regent Daughters offered a protest for record which, upon objection being raised,

(cont'd. on next page)

for special reasons. We believe that there was a contract which was not fulfilled unless the full year was paid for. In the case of many members of the faculty the year's work was done but the board would deprive them of two month's salary. It was simply a cowardly way of reducing it. There was talk by some of the members of the faculty of bringing suit against the board,

"So it was that the board discharged all employees Thursday morning. In order to free the board from any embarrassment on his account, President Fairchild stated to the board that he would not be a candidate for re-election to the presidency.²⁹ His object was to clear the

was not received. After attending to other business the board adjourned until 8:30 A.M. of April 9, 1897.
Ibid., pp. 131-132

²⁹ The board was meeting with Regents Kelley, St. John, Noe, Hoffman, Hudson present. President Fairchild was granted permission to make an oral statement, the substance of which was embodied for record as follows:

April 9th, 1897

"To the Board of Regents:

"In view of the resolution of yesterday, terminating the employment of all employees on the 30th of June next, I feel most seriously the danger to the continuity of the college unless immediate action is taken with reference to reemployment of such members of the present faculty as may be acceptable. I, therefore, urge such action now, and, in order to free the board from embarrassment on my personal account, I hereby decline to be a candidate for the Presidency, and cannot conscientiously accept reelection if tendered.

(cont'd on next page) Geo. F. Fairchild."

deck to enable the board to take immediate action as far as they could upon other members of the faculty. That forenoon I had a little talk with the president. I expressed the hope that he would not go unless he had to, as the institution could afford to lose any half dozen of the rest of us rather than him. He told me the substance of what he had told the board, only in more emphatic language than his written statement. He spoke of his weariness of the struggle and his unwillingness to continue. He was not too old to be considered valuable to other institutions, while a few years later he would be. He felt that now was the time for him to leave. I was surprised at his attitude but I saw it was best for him, and with the present board, perhaps as well for the institution. I must have been the first one whom the president told. He had come in to see Professor Failyer at the third hour. Professor Failyer had a class, and after leaving a message for Professor Failyer he fell to talking with me.

"Even the air seemed charged with excitement that

Then the board decided to send two delegates to the meeting of American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations and voted that Fairchild be one of the delegates. Ibid., p. 134

day. Professor Failyer and I ate our lunch at the laboratory as usual. We had not finished eating before members of the faculty began to drop in, and it was nearly night before a moment arrived in which no visitors were present. Coming and going getting news and giving it, there was an intermittent stream all afternoon. It was by then understood that President Fairchild would not remain, and we all consoled ourselves with the thought that if we had to leave, it would be in very good company."

The regents meantime moved that the president of the college be authorized to make requisition for seven thousand catalogues, including a prospectus for the next year as directed by the committee on employees.³⁰ Then on April 9, 1897, with all board members present the committee on employees recommended Professor Thomas E. Will for president of the college.

³⁰ The catalogues appeared with Professor Will announced as president and the new instead of the existing faculty listed. Upon protest of Dr. Willard, the old faculty list was printed on a folded sheet of paper and placed in each catalogue. The Manhattan Nationalist for August 19, said, "An indignant subscriber wishes to know if we had noticed Professor Will's latest cunning scheme in issuing the catalogues for 1896-97; with himself as president, over 700 students in attendance, over 500 graduates, and the names of the men who have really made the college slipped in on a loose sheet, of course, the loose sheet will be dropped out and Willie hugs himself with the belief that he has made this a flourishing college."

Regent Hudson's motion to insert the words "To fill the vacancy occurring July 1st, next" was accepted. The report as amended was adopted by vote with Regents Kelley, Hudson, Limbocker, St. John, and Hoffman voting, "Aye" and Regents Daughters and Mos voting, "No".

The afternoon of the same day the Committee on Employees reported: "We recommend that John D. Walters, O. E. Olin, O. P. Hood, E. R. Nichols, Julius T. Willard, Josephine Harper, Alice Rupp, Julia R. Pearce, be employed for such positions as the board may hereafter designate, and beg leave to report progress and to report further tomorrow." A few days later I. D. Graham, A. B. Brown, A. S. Hitchcock and Mrs. E. E. Winchip were employed.³¹

The news that Will had been elected president was not unexpected, but it was none the less depressing to faculty members.

Professor Failyer,³² then head of the chemistry

³¹ Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, pp. 135, 137.

³² Professor Failyer in an interview in the fall of 1931 said when questioned on the Populist period at the college: "I'll be partisan and I can't help it, a man can't be neutral in such things, but I'll be as neutral as anyone else. There was a political upturning in the state in 1896. Leedy was elected governor. There was talk through the winter that there would be some upturning in the college, so we really were not surprised when news came that Will succeeded Fairchild."

department said: "I had two assistants—Willard and Bresse. I said to them, 'Well, boys, that settles it for me, I'm out no matter what action the board takes. I know I could never get along with Will as president, and I shall quit'. Then, you know a man can readily refuse a thing that has not been offered him and I probably would not have been offered the place."

Of Professor Fairlyer, Dr. Willard says: "He was the only member of the faculty who had the feeling, courage, sagacity or whatever may have been their several motives, to say that he was through the moment that the die was cast. Others, after a day or two of waiting for a re-election that never came, were very free to say that they would not stay if the board asked them. Grace Clark, clerk to President Fairchild, refused to remain in a similar position to President Will. Mrs. Nellis Kedzie refused to remain, but only after some days of consideration. It was Professor Fairlyer who called me by telephone and told me that Regent Daughters had reported that the committees on employees were in favor of re-employing certain ones whom he named. It was supposed that there would be favorable reports for still others, although they had gone through the list. Whether the promptness with which these were reported while others

were left to a later report should be taken as an indication of greater satisfaction with these than others has never been disclosed. One of the accepted ones remarked that he felt flattered to be on the first list, and I suppose his feeling was shared more or less by all of us."

In regard to his dismissal, Professor Failyer said: "That day, after I told Willard and Bress in the morning, the secretary of the faculty, I. D. Graham, came over to the laboratory while I was in class and told me the board wanted to see me. I excused myself to the class as soon as I could. I went to the main building. Professor White was waiting in the secretary's room. He had been called also. They were taking us two at a time. Kelly was the president, but Hoffman was spokesman. Hoffman told us we were not desired after June 30. He gave us a chance to resign and I declined with, 'I understand your action of yesterday severs my connection with the college at the close of the year without any action on my part.' I thought then and yet believe that the statement that we declined reelection or resigned would help break the effect of the upturning, and I would not resign. Hoffman replied, 'Our action might be so interpreted, but the year closes on June 30.' Professor White

said, 'It seems to me, gentlemen, that when members of a faculty have been serving for years, they ought not be dismissed without some reasons given.' I knew any discussion was useless. They had made up their minds--I reminded them of my waiting class, excused myself, and went."

On April 9 or 10, Regent Hoffman, in speaking to the students from the student assembly platform, stated that the board felt it would be impracticable to conduct the institution with Fairchild at its head, because he differed from them so radically on fundamental principles, and so with the rest of the faculty. "However," he said, "they are not dismissed because of inefficiency on their part; not because they were not good teachers; not because they had not done their part well; but because they differed from the board."³³

A storm of protest and comment rose following the announcement of the termination of the service of the faculty. People of Manhattan felt that it was the end of the Kansas State Agricultural College. It was feared

³³ Dr. Willard remembers Hoffman saying in the student assembly exercises: "However, they are not dismissed because of inefficiency..., not because they had not done their part well, but, you know how it is in our public schools, it becomes necessary that changes be made."

that the federal government might withdraw its support. But not all the noise was protest: there were Kansans who felt the college would be improved by the introduction of new life into the faculty.

Newspapers were divided on the matter. The Topeka Daily Capital on April 10, 1897 said, "The Board of Regents of the State Agricultural College have been in session during the week, and the business they have transacted is of a startling nature, to say the least. Of a faculty numbering nearly fifty persons,³⁴ they have deposed all but nine, and this without any specific charge of incompetency, but, because, as one of the regents frankly said, 'they are not in harmony with the fundamental principles of the administration....' Three out of five of the Populist members, a majority, have never had any connection with the Agricultural College and this is their first meeting. Those competent to criticise say that Regent Hoffman, of Enterprise, is at the bottom of the radical measures adopted, but it is certain he had official backing among his Populist co-workers. C. B. Daughters and C. R. Noe are the Republican members of

³⁴ The faculty was hardly half that number.

the Board and it is only fair to state that they opposed in every case and with all their might the ousting of the present members of the faculty."

The same paper earlier in the year indicated its disapproval of the administration of the college by the following statement in regard to the experiment station: "Its feeble and inconclusive work has excited widespread comment among the active, aggressive, and up to date agriculturists of the state. It is far behind states where the latest problems of agriculture, irrigation, soil study, and similar topics, are constantly under scientific study. It is a humiliating fact recognized by all leading investigators that our experiment station is behind not only the great leaders, such as California, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, but also stations of second rank such as Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and even Oklahoma. Kansas stands at the foot of the list.... There is a splendid list of scientific men at the Agricultural College and the work of the college proper is beyond criticism. But the experimental work, regarded as of so much importance in this day of agricultural research in the leading western experiment stations, is almost neglected in its chief features at the Kansas Station."³⁵

Almost a year before the "Revolution" at the college, a Manhattan paper said, "For years we have advocated that for the opportunities afforded and money expended, the faculty of the Agriculture College was weak; that too many drones were employed as teachers and assistants and that for the good of the institution and the fulfillment of its objects, the faculty needed weeding. We make these suggestions in the interest of education in general and the Agricultural College in particular. The best talent the country affords is what Kansans demand, and it can be had for the salaries paid professors and assistants in the Agricultural College."³⁶

On April 14, 1897, the same paper predicted:³⁷
 "The selection by the board of regents of the Agricultural College of Professor Thomas E. Will as president of the institution will meet the approval of progressive educators. He is of highest type of manhood, highly educated, progressive in all that the word implies; in short, a man of the times. Under President Will the Kansas State Agricultural College will fast take rank as the leading

³⁶ Manhattan Mercury, June 17, 1896.

³⁷ Ibid., April 14, 1897.

Agricultural College in the United States. The Agricultural College has made rapid strides under President Anderson;³⁸ it has progressed under President Fairchild, and it will make even greater progress under Professor Will, the new president. As one of the graduating classes told us yesterday, 'The new president will prove a valuable man if he don't work the students to death.' Knowing Professor Will as we do this is all the recommendation that is needed."

At this same time another Manhattan paper wrote of President-elect Will: "The new president of the college is not a Populist. He is an Independent. Neither is it the intention of the board that partisan politics shall have any place in the curriculum or in the methods of teaching. Indeed, eleven out of thirteen professors retained are Republicans, and the vacancies will be filled by the best men available, without regard to politics. No better proof of this is needed than the proposition to tender the chair of Agriculture to Secretary F. D. Colburn, of the State Board of Agriculture,

38

John A. Anderson was president of Kansas State Agriculture College from 1873 to 1878. In 1878 he was elected by the Republicans to Congress. When the Farmers' Alliance broke the party dominating in 1891 Anderson refused to run "wild" and lost his seat. College Symposium of Kansas State Agriculture College p. 23.

one of the best known Republicans in the state."³⁹

Others were not so optimistic, however. One of the Harney county papers said: "George T. Fairchild has been the president of the institution for eight [sic] years and has made the college one of the best of its kind in the United States. The very evident reason of the change is that more 'advanced' ideas of political economy may be taught in the college. The new president, a young man named Will, knows nothing of managing a college, but he is a ranting alarmist and will be much better able to teach the young men attending the college how 'to raise less corn and more hell' than the more competent President Fairchild. What a pity that educational institutions of a great state should be prostituted to serve the selfish and narrow ideas of a few reformists."⁴⁰

In a newspaper at Lawrence appeared the statement: "Politics has got into the educational institutions at last. During their first term the Populists kept politics out, but the place-hunters were importunate and at last they have triumphed. At Manhattan, almost the entire

³⁹ Manhattan Republic, April 14, 1897.

⁴⁰ Newton Kansan, April 12, 1897.

faculty has been changed. If it is simply a move to better the school the removal would not have been so wholesale. It is inconceivable that the Republicans should lead the institution with incompetent instructors all these years. The fact is that it is politics pure and simple, and we greatly fear that the State University will be the next attacked.⁴¹

In line with this same thought an Iola paper declared: "The fate of the Agricultural College is an evidence of what would have happened at the State University if the desperate efforts that were made to place the Populists in control of the Board of Regents of that institution had succeeded. It is an open secret that if the scheme had gone through, and it miscarried by the merest accident, Chancellor Snow would have been deposed or humiliated until forced to resign, and that the faculty would have been 'reconstructed' along Populist lines. Fortunately the plans of the vandals failed and the University is saved from total disorganization, although the parsimonious appropriation given it the next two years by the Legislature makes any kind of

⁴¹ Lawrence World, April 13, 1897.

growth during the next two years impossible."⁴²

Another paper said: "Thomas E. Will, the newly appointed president of the newly established Populist school at Manhattan, has come to his reward, but at what a cost to the state. The Agricultural College, not only the pride of the state, but of the nation, [is] turned into a political machine to grind out Populists. What a prospect for the farmer's sons of the future! The party of which Artz, Clemons, Doster, Lowelling, Pitcher, Hoffman, Lease⁴³ and others of equally nauseous fame, are the

⁴² Iola Register, April 16, 1897.

⁴³ In an interview in the Kansas City Star, October 25, 1914, with Mary E. Lease, the question was, "Whom did you consider the ablest man of your party?" Mrs. Lease replied, "Frank Doster. He was head and shoulders above the rest of us. Unfortunately we did not understand him or appreciate him at his full value then.... Jerry Simpson was overated. There was not a great deal of depth to him. He possessed a combination of Canadian and Irish humor and it was with this that he moved his audiences, and he understood the tricks of politice and was quick enough to make the most of his opportunities. He was not the author of that "No socks" story. It originated, I think, with a newspaper correspondent in Washington, but Jerry seized upon it and made votes with it.... Peffer was a good man and an honest man, but utterly lacking in brilliancy and without the first suggestion of magnetism. Even John Martin, ignorant as he was of many ways of politics, was stronger in some respects. John W. Leedy? Ah, there was a sterling honest man. He was not with us at the start, but...but after he joined us he became a power.... after he had served us in the state senate we elected him Governor, and he made good. John Leedy was a man who could not be tempted by money or office. He was tried and stood the test."

shining lights, robbing the people of the services of men who have grown gray in building up an institution second to none of its kind in the world and putting it in the charge of a young whipper-snapper without executive ability or experience, and whose only certificate of recommendation is that he graduated from Harvard and indorse the 'fundamental principle of Populism.'"⁴⁴

"Kansas people suffer long and patiently. The state was born in adversity, rocked in the cradle of war, baptized in the blood of martyrs and reared upon misfortune, but her motto, 'To the Stars through difficulties' is as true as if it were prophecy...." wrote one paper.⁴⁵

Another Iola paper said: "The Board of Regents of the Agricultural College have shown themselves to be the most industrious, ambitious, picturesque and variegated sort of idiots that the 'Agrarian uprising' has produced."⁴⁶ A Topeka paper used still more virulent language, as follows: "Kansas has suffered in the past from guerrillas, grasshoppers, cholera, drought, and

⁴⁴ Blue Rapids Motor, April 16, 1897.

⁴⁵ Ekridge Star, April 13, 1897.

⁴⁶ Iola News, April 13, 1897.

chinch bugs, and recovered, and probably her past record in vanquishing pests augure well for her triumphant victory over Populism, the dirtiest plague of them all."⁴⁷

The Leon Indicator edited by C. R. Noe said: "We left Kansas State Agricultural College last Saturday noon, having failed to prevent a revolution in the management and policy of the institution, and with the supposition that the reorganization was virtually arranged, and nearly completed." Then he added: "The general government sends thirty-eight thousand dollars to Kansas this year, for the support of the State Agricultural College. If that institution is to be used as a political football, is there not a possibility that Congress will repeal the laws making these liberal provisions for scientific experiments and original investigations?"⁴⁸

C. B. Hoffman, was considered the master mind of the "Revolution" and received his full share of the notices. The Alma Enterprise commented: "This man, C. B. Hoffman, who is the ruling spirit on the Board of Regents, who discharged the old professors at the Manhattan College

⁴⁷ Topeka Capital, clipping in People's party clippings.

⁴⁸ Leon Indicator, April 15, 1897.

last week, used to be on the school board at Enterprise, and may yet be for all I know. Several teachers in this county have had some experience with him and it was his invariable rule to ask an applicant for the school what his politics were. No Republicans need apply. He is evidently employing the same tactics at the State Agricultural College."⁴⁹

A Salina paper said: "Between business in Topolobampo and removing Republican professors at the Agricultural College, the wheels in little Chris Hoffman's head are kept humming."⁵⁰

State Senator John E. Hessin, of Riley county, stated that the recent upheaval at the State Agricultural College was largely the result of personal quarrels. He said: "Professor S. C. Mason was let out because he suspended two of Chris Hoffman's boys."⁵¹ Hoffman runs the new board of regents and as soon as he got into office he proceeded to even up with Mason by causing his discharge on the ground of general inefficiency."⁵²

⁴⁹ Alma Enterprise, April 16, 1897.

⁵⁰ Salina Journal, clipping in People's Party clippings.

⁵¹ The faculty minutes show that the Hoffman boys were suspended and Mason was the professor who was responsible.

⁵² Topeka Capital, clipping in People's Party clippings.

It was feared that parents would no longer send their children to the college and that the enrollment would fall far below the usual number.⁵⁰ A paper in the southern part of the state said: "After July 1, 1897, and until July 1, 1899, the Kansas State Agricultural College will be an institution of Populists, by Populists and for Populists. Farmers who do not believe in fiat money and other rankism will hesitate to send their children to the great Agricultural College that has been the pride of the farmers of Kansas, to be filled with the political wind of Populism instead of the science and art of modern Agriculture."⁵¹

The Industrialist, a weekly paper published at the

⁵⁰ the enrollment shown in the Kansas State Agricultural College Catalogues was as follows:

Year	Enrollment	Increase
1893-94	555	17
1894-95	572	17
1895-96	647	75
1896-97	734	87
1897-98	803	69
1898-99	870	67
1899-00	1094	224
1900-01	1321	227

⁵¹

Ottawa Daily Republic, April 14, 1897.

college by the faculty, carried the complete minutes of the board without comment,⁵² but the resident alumni were less neutral. They met on April 10, and adopted the following resolution:

"1 That we desire to offer an earnest protest against any radical change in the policy of the institution.

"2 That in the removal of our worthy and esteemed President, George T. Fairchild, we feel that our Alma Mater has lost its best friend—a tried and true man who has given the best years of his life to its upbuilding and development. Against the action of the Board of Regents in the removal of President Fairchild we further earnestly and sincerely protest and express our sorrow and regret at said action, and also our conviction that a radical change in spirit, methods and management will result in irreparable injury and loss to our institution, our state, and our nation.

"3 That we being of different political faiths are not prompted to this action by party prejudice, but because we esteem, honor and love our Alma Mater and the honored man who has shaped its destiny for the past

⁵² Industrialist, April 12, 1897.

seventeen years and through his earnest work has placed its name at the head of the list of Agricultural Colleges in the world."⁵³

On April 10, the regents approved the bond presented by treasurer-elect, Hoffman. Regent Daughters was the outgoing treasurer.⁵⁴

The report of the committee on finance was adopted as follows:

"Your committee to whom was referred the accounts of Treasurer Daughters has not as yet submitted a formal report to the Board of Regents as to your committee. We therefore, recommend the election of a committee to receive his report when it is made, and to share settlement with him. Regent Daughters was the only member of the board not present."

On April 13, the board met with Regente Kelley, Hoffman, St John, and Limbocker present. Regent Limbocker moved that Ex-Treasurer Daughters be requested to make his settlement as treasurer immediately, and that the

⁵³ Student Herald (Manhattan), Vol. 3 p. 14.

⁵⁴ See Appendix I for regents this year.

president of the board be authorized to telegraph him the information.⁵⁵

The next day Regents Kelley, Hoffman, St John and Limbocker met. Daughters' answering telegram was made a part of the Regent's Minutes. The telegram reads: "Cannot come. Will make my report and send books and balance to Graham or Hoffman as Board directs."⁵⁶

At Regent Limbocker's motion, Assistant Secretary Graham was instructed to furnish from his books the exact amount due from Daughters. Upon determining the amount the president of the board was instructed to draw \$3233.13 on the Ex-Treasurer and to request final settlement by April 16.⁵⁷ The secretary of the college was ordered to notify the treasurer of the state of Kansas and the treasurer of the United States of the election of C. B. Hoffman as treasurer of the board of regents.

They also recommended that J. L. Deason, Ph. D., Johns Hopkins, be employed to fill the chair of chemistry and for such other work as might be assigned to him.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, p. 137

⁵⁶ Ibid., Vol. B, p. 137

⁵⁷ A slight discrepancy appeared between the books of the Treasury and Secretary and this was referred to the finance committee. June 8, 1897.

⁵⁸ Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, p. 143.

On April 14, 1897, Mrs. Kedzie appeared before the board and declined to accept the position she was offered.

On June 7, 1897 the board met with all present except Regent Daughters. Regent Hoffman moved that in view of the fact that President Will needed to be familiar with the work of the Board, he should be instructed to sit with the board thereafter.⁵⁹

On the next day Mrs. Helen Campbell was recommended for the chair of household economy and hygiene. The employment of Professors Frank Parsons, J. Allen Smith, and Edward W. Bemis was recommended providing satisfactory arrangements could be made as to salaries and adjustment of work and time.

The committee on employees on June 9, recommended that the secretary of the board notify F. N. White, N. S. Mayo, E. A. Popenoe, and C. M. Breese that the board of regents had decided to change instructors in their several chairs and that their term of service would end on June 30, 1897 as by previous resolution of the Board of regents.

On June 8, 1897, President Fairchild called the

⁵⁹ Ibid., Vol. B, p. 140.

faculty together. All members were present except Brown, Thompson, and Will.⁶⁰ The next meeting recorded in the faculty minutes was on September 7, 1897, with President Will calling the meeting. There had been no faculty meetings between June 8 and September 7, and no reference in the minutes to the upheaval.⁶¹

On June 10, Regent St. John moved that President-elect Will be appointed the second delegate to the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, to represent the college. President Fairchild was designated to represent the station.

Again Professor Fairlyer takes up the story: "It was some days after the Board's action of April 7, that Regent Daughters phoned me to come to the college and I went up there. He said he could not be known in this matter, but said 'If you want to collect for the summer months, consult your attorney and give the board notice before June 30.' I had already consulted Hession and he had said we could collect. Judge Kimball told us to go before the Board and notify them of our intentions. I collected Fairchild, Georgeson, White, Lantz, and Popenoe and we appeared before the Board. I did the

⁶⁰ Minutes of the Faculty, Vol. C, p. 579.

⁶¹ Ibid., p. 582.

talking. I told them that their payment in twelve-month periods was the Board's doing and we would try to collect.

"Presently I saw that we would have to begin right away in order to get in our case in the next term of court. Lantz, Georgeson, and I went into see Will—as President of the college he was Secretary of the Board. We told him we had come to see if the college was going to pay our salaries. We don't want to put the college to any extra expense or go to any ourselves, but if the college doesn't pay our salary we will begin suit. In order to get in the next term of court we must begin now.' He hummed and hawed—said he would like to pay it but couldn't. He said he had a letter from the Attorney-General's office saying 'Neither can they collect the same.' I thought he was lying at the time but Georgeson and I went to Topeka to talk to the Attorney-General. He was out of the state so we talked to the Assistant Attorney-General. He said their office had advised the board that it would have to pay those salaries."

It was on June 17 that the thirteen retiring members of the faculty presented to the board a written notice of intention to insist upon fulfillment of their contracts.

The thirteen who filed notice were: George F. Fairchild, G. H. Failyer, E. A. Popence, D. E. Lantz,

N. S. Kedzie, J. S. C. Thompson, Frances H. White,
C. C. Georgeson, Nelson S. Mayo, S. C. Mason, C. M. Breese,
F. A. Marlatt and C. A. Gunaker.

The notice was received by the board and referred to a committee of three: Regents Hudson, Daughters, and Hoffman.⁶² The claims were paid not only to these thirteen, but to all who had been employed under the old ruling. Dr. Willard and others were thus paid with the old faculty as well as with the new faculty and so received double pay for these two months. Regent Daughters moved that the appointees to various positions be notified that their terms of office would begin on September 1 next, but this motion was not carried; Regents Noe and Daughters voted 'Aye' and Regents Hoffman, Hudson, Limbocker, and St John voted 'No'.

On June 10, 1897 the alumni association met at the college assembly hall and accepted the resolutions passed by the resident alumni two months before. The next day the board issued a statement: "Whereas; a number of Republicans claiming to represent the College Alumni met in the college chapel yesterday afternoon

⁶² Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, p. 150.

for purely political purposes, under the guise of the annual meeting of said society, and at said meeting made speeches and passed resolutions derogatory of the action and work of the present Board of Regents, for the purpose of injuring the good name and future usefulness of the State Agricultural College, that by their action preferring political advantage to the future of the college and its Alumni, and

"Whereas, free speech was denied and hissed at said meeting,

"Now Therefore, the president and faculty are directed hereafter to keep the College Chapel and halls free from all partisan political meetings."⁶³

Discussion on the action of the board was that the board published a statement saying that Professor Will was in no sense responsible for the amendment to the Senate Bill number 547 whereby the President of the College was deprived of his regency; that he had not instigated or suggested the removal of President Fairchild from the presidency of the college; and that at no time had he ever suggested his desire or willingness to

⁶³ Ibid., Vol. B, p. 151.

occupy the office of president of the college, until directly interrogated by members of the Board.⁶⁴

On July 1, 1897, the board issued a statement relative to the reorganization of the Kansas State Agricultural College. They declared that the government of the institution had been practically assumed by the President of the college and the board reduced to a mere auditing committee. The attempt of the board to exercise its lawful functions was resisted by the

⁶⁴ It is true that Professor Will had been placed in an advantageous position. After the Populists had majorities in the legislature and had elected the state officers in 1897 it was generally agreed that Fairchild, an uncompromising Republican, should have his power curtailed. In that line the college president personally attended to enrollment, all matters of discipline, and was quite the monarch in his realm. Fairchild saw that he could do little in Topeka to aid the college in its efforts to secure appropriations of over \$250,000 for equipment and operating expenses. To get these appropriations it was necessary to have in Topeka a good manager and an effective lobbyist whose theories would be in accord with the political texture of the legislature and Governor. In 1893 when conditions were similar, Professor J. D. Walters was in Topeka in the interest of the college and was able to get \$70000 for the building now known as Fairchild Hall. In 1897 Professor Will was sent to Topeka. He was successful in this work and as he came in contact with the leaders of the party he impressed them with his ideas and qualities of leadership. Thus he was given an opportunity to impress the Populists favorably. So it would seem that the board assumed all responsibility for the changes and that Professor Will did not hasten the change at the college. He was the one who appeared at Topeka at the right time, and circumstance did the rest. John D. Walters, History of Kansas State Agricultural College, p. 111.

president and he resigned. The faculty was said to be swamped by half educated men and it was hoped that a more highly educated faculty could be secured. The board stated that they disagreed with the retiring administration in the choice of studies and on questions of discipline. It was their intention to increase the agricultural instruction, the mathematical department, and the economic and sociological work. They declared their sole object was to raise the standard, increase the efficiency, and enlarge the usefulness of the college.⁶⁵

⁶⁵ For full statement see Appendix III.

POPULIST CONTROL AND COUNTER REVOLUTION

III

When the school opened in the fall there were twelve old members on the faculty and eleven new members.¹

¹ Among the new faculty members were several who had become well known in their fields. Professor E. W. Bemis, formerly of Chicago University, and Professor Frank Parsons, an author of economics books, and formerly a lecturer on law in Boston University were given chairs of political science and history. Mrs. Helen Campbell, author of several books on domestic science and sociology was placed in charge of the home economics course. Professor Henry M. Cottrell, M. S., graduate of the college in 1884, assistant to Professor Georgeason from 1887 to 1891, and later the superintendent of a large model dairy farm, "Ellerslie" on the Hudson, belonging to Vice President Levi P. Morton, became head of the agricultural course. Miss Mary F. Winston, a graduate of Bryn Mawr and of the University of Goettingen, Germany, was given the chair of mathematics. Later this chair was divided, and Dr. Arnold Emch, author of several books on mathematical subjects, and a poet graduate of Kansas State Agricultural College, the University of Kansas, and the University of Zurich, Switzerland, was given linear mathematics and surveying. The chair of chemistry was divided, and Professor Julius T. Willard, M. S., a graduate of the college in 1883, and assistant to Professor Failyer from 1883 to 1887 with a years work in graduate study at Johns Hopkins University in 1887-1888, was given pure chemistry while Professor George Weida, a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and the University of Kansas, was given the applied chemistry. The chair of horticulture was filled by appointing Professor E. A. Faville, formerly of the Nova Scotia School of agriculture. The new chair of oratory was given to Professor Fredric A. Metcalf, a member of the faculty of Emerson College of Oratory, Boston. Dr. Duren Ward, was given the chair of English. Walters, History of Kansas State Agricultural College, pp. 114-115.

The president with the faculty had worked out plans for strengthening the separate courses. In July, they had made some arrangements for specialization in agriculture and in engineering and by fall they formulated three courses of study—agriculture, engineering, and a general course. History, economics, and political economy were stressed in each.² A course in household economics was prepared in the spring. These four courses today (1932) are major divisions at Kansas State College. They also considered courses in electrical engineering, civil engineering, and architecture.

In the spring of 1893 a college book store and a college dining hall were created, both of which opened in the fall term. The book store was to sell books, tools, and stationery at actual cost to students and faculty. In eight months it handled \$8000 worth of supplies. The dining hall was operated under the direction of Mrs. Helen Campbell and Miss Minnie A. Stoner. It provided meals consisting of soup, meat,

² The old course of study had provided for one term each of general history, civics, and economics. The new course contained a term each of general history, United States history, general nineteenth century history, industrial history, civics, elementary economics, principles of economics, economic problems and finance, an increase of 200 per cent. Walters, History of Kansas State Agriculture College, p. 114.

bread, vegetables, and pie for from nine to twelve cents a meal. These meals are very popular and several hundred students and faculty members ate there regularly.³

The Industrialist was changed from a weekly paper to a monthly magazine. President Will and the professors in the history and political science department published articles on free silver and banking in the new magazine. Professor E. W. Benie began to give afternoon lectures on the lawn in front of his residence, and students and citizens flocked there to hear him.⁴

By 1899 the administration of student affairs of the college was conducted by committees rather than by all of the faculty. The faculty meetings were changed to one every two weeks and later became even more infrequent. A committee was appointed to take care of the assignments of students to classes. The president, along with the faculty, had formerly attended to such matters at regular meetings. Another distinct advance made during the administration of President Will was the one in which allotments of funds were made to the several departments, thus enabling the department to

³ Walters, Op. cit., p. 116

⁴ Ibid., p. 115

plan its expenditures and placing the responsibility on the head of the department.

The new Domestic Science Hall was completed in Will's administration. It was said to be the first college building in America exclusively devoted to the instruction of women in the arts of the home.⁵

Another accomplishment for which President Will and the board must be given credit was the eradication of tuberculosis from the college herd. "It was known for years by the faculty that the herd of high-grade shorthorns and Holsteins were badly afflicted by tuberculosis, but as there were no funds available for replacing the animals the rumors that got abroad were hushed."⁶ Some of the herd were tested in January, 1897, and proved to be diseased. When the new veterinarian, Dr. Paul Fisher, inspected the cattle in the fall, he tested them and insisted that they were in very bad condition and urged that veterinarians from the East be called to see them. This was done and upon the recommendations of these doctors, along with that of Dr. Fisher,

⁵ Ibid., p. 117.

⁶ Ibid., p. 117.

the board ordered that some of the cattle be killed. The slaughtering was done in public and it was proved that the veterinarians were right, but a controversy sprang up over the killing as if it had been a political act.⁷ The press of the whole country was again aroused by the deeds at Kansas State Agriculture College.⁸

It was rumored about the college that milk from these infected cattle had been sold to citizens of Manhattan right up to the time of the slaughtering,

The administration of Will was conducted under constant controversy, most of which was outside the college, but there was some feeling of dissatisfaction within the college.

The students behaved well and were satisfied with the new order of things. The alumni, the citizens of

⁷ Ibid., p. 117

⁸ In an interview with C. B. Daughtere on this question he said: "We knew some of the cattle had tuberculosis. The seventeen head slaughtered were mostly shorthorn. Regent Hoffman insisted that the old Republican Board had permitted the whole herd to become contaminated. There were about one hundred head of cattle remaining and Hoffman insisted they be shipped to Kansas City at once. I insisted the cattle were now a healthy herd and should not be slaughtered. I succeeded in getting the regents from Yates Center, Woodson County [Appendix I shows no regent from Yates Center, Woodson County. It is possible that Mr. Daughtere intended to say Fredonia, Wilson County.] to stand with me on that proposition but were still a minority."

Manhattan, and citizens of the state were not so well pleased however. The college dining hall, the college bookstore, and the college printing office were not popular among the business people of the town.⁹

In the spring of 1895 the bitterness between the Republicans and the Democrats increased and the college again became the center of the storm. The members of the faculty were not harmonious, and President Will was not as diplomatic in settling differences as he might have been. Professors Helen Campbell, Oscar Olin, and Ozni Hood had resigned.

Stanley was elected in November and the Republicans were again in possession of the state government. There

Fisher, the veterinarian at the college stood with Hoffman. After the slaughtering of the cattle that day, the board of regents met. Hoffman moved immediate shipment of all cattle to Kansas City. Fisher was present and encouraged it. Just when the board were about to issue the order the veterinarian from New York, Dr. James Law of Cornell University came into the room. Hoffman turned to him and said, 'Professor, isn't that the thing to do?' 'Do what?' the veterinarian asked. When Hoffman told him of the plan to ship the remainder of the herd to Kansas City, the veterinarian answered, 'My dear sir, why do you suggest that?' You have the healthiest herd of cattle in the State of Kansas. They have been proved absolutely freed from disease by the tests.' This answer caused the board to reject the resolution."

⁹ Interview with Dr. Willard.

was a demand that the state institutions be purged of all things Populist.¹⁰

The death of Kelley had reduced the number of Populist regents to six and three of the remaining ones would loose their seats in April, 1899. In December, Governor Leedy called a special session of the old legislature to pass a number of laws regulating railroads, and this gave him an opportunity to appoint two Populists. The senate promptly confirmed the appointed regents, William H. Phipps and Carl Vrooman. President Will addressed a circular letter to this effect: "At the last legislative session a law was passed lengthening the terms of regents of the Agricultural College from three years to four and superceding the president of the college, till then a regent, by a seventh regent appointed by the governor. By the provisions of this law the terms of four of the regents will expire regularly at the end of one biennium, three at the end of the next and so continuing every two years in groups of four and three respectively.

"But the death of Regent Kelley will have broken,

¹⁰ Interview with C. B. Daughtere.

after April 1, 1899, the majority of members appointed by Governor Leedy, which, by the provisions of the law, would have continued until 1901. The appointment and confirmation at the present session of a successor to Regent Kelley will restore this majority and insure the continuance until 1901 of the present policy...."¹¹

The Populists had apparently made sure of their supremacy for another two years, but in order to strengthen their influence the board began in March to make written contracts with some of the professors, engaging them for the following college year. Contracts were drawn up and signed by the president and secretary of the board.

The Republicans were eagerly awaiting the time when the Populists would hang themselves, and they soon found that their chance had come. Governor Stanley sent the state accountant to examine the books at the college. The college dining hall came in as the weight that changed the balance of the political scale. On March 25, 1898, at the regular board meeting, Regent Hoffman had recommended that Regent Limbocker be authorized to pur-

¹¹ Walters, op. cit., p. 120

chase supplies for the college dining hall and that all purchases thereafter be made under the direction of Regent Limbocker.¹² On March 29, 1899, Regents Limbocker and Hoffman were notified that H. A. Perkins,¹³ had filed formal charges against them in the governor's office and that they were therefore suspended from the exercise of their functions as regents.¹⁴

Some of the charges were directed against the whole board and some were against these two members of the board.¹⁵ The board was accused of having used the institution to further their partizan views; of having met and transacted business without a quorum; of having increased salaries beyond the maximum allowed by the Jumper act;¹⁶ of having created a large deficit, and of having used the funds of the college for operation of a bookstore and a dining hall.

The charges against the two members were interesting

¹² Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, p.208

¹³ Perkins was editor of the Manhattan Nationalist and had been especially vindictive in fighting the college through this period.

¹⁴ Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, p. 254.

¹⁵ Ibid., Vol. B, p. 255.

¹⁶ The Jumper act is discussed on page 36.

trivialities. Regent Limbocker was charged with having accepted a monthly salary as purchasing agent for the dining hall, and of having sold a load of wood to the dining hall manager. Regent Hoffman was charged with having sold to the dining hall manager some graham flour. Hoffman did not deny the charge but was able to show that at the time the flour was bought he was absent from his mill at Enterprise, and that the person making the sale, was unacquainted with the law forbidding the selling of merchandise by a regent to the state institution which he served.

The regents were tried. Along with the above charges were those that President Will had "doctored the minutes of the board" and that the state prosecution represented by Hessin, Irish, and Brock had attempted to steal the records from the collage and been caught in the act.¹⁷

Then the governor found that the members of the investigating committee were charging for seventeen days' salaries when they worked only seven days. The Manhattan Republic puts it very cleverly in the pages

¹⁷ Manhattan Nationalist, April 12, 1899.

under the title "A Farce in Five Acts."¹⁸

"Act I: H. A. Perkins commits perjury, swearing, among other things, that Regent Hoffman used funds of the college in his own business.

"Act II: Governor Stanley appoints a committee to investigate the charges made by Perkins. The committee consists of four Republicans and a lone Populist.

"Act III: Committee in session, Johnheesein vilifies G. C. Clemons. Shown that Limbocker traded a load of dry wood for a load of green wood belonging to the college. Sergeant-at-Arms passes apples to committee and, like the sailor's wife in Macbeth, they munch and munch and munch. Documentawiperirish pilfers papers that are a part of the College records, is caught in the act and reported to the committee. Johnheesein requests committee not to hold a night session as lawyers for the state wish to consult with said committee.

"Act IV: Governor charges committee with trying to steal ten day's pay from the state.

"Act V: Regents removed by Governor Stanley."¹⁹

Once again the state was aroused—the Manhattan

¹⁸ Manhattan Republic, April 12, 1899.

¹⁹ The men were formally removed by Governor Stanley on May 12, 1899.

Republic, edited by Jeff Davis, was a firm defender of the college and the regents while the Manhattan Nationalist, edited by Perkins, heaped coals of fire upon all connected with the college. With the investigation acting in some ways as a boomerang to the Republicans, they were, nevertheless, able to appoint two new members on a board of regents that would otherwise have had a Populist majority until 1901.

The board met with all present and Regent E. T. Fairchild of Ellsworth in the chair, on June 10, 1899.

Regent McDowell offered the following resolution: "Resolved, that the interest of the Kansas State Agricultural College requires the services of the following named officers and professors of this college be dispensed with after June 30, 1899: President Will, Professors Bemis, Ward, Parsons, Secretary Phipps. This motion passed with five Ayes and St. John and Vrooman voting No.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, Regent McDowell offered the following resolution which was carried:²⁰

"Whereas, the minutes of the Board of Regents of the

²⁰ Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, p. 234

meeting held January second to seventh, 1899, show that the then President of the said board of regents, J. N. Limbocker, was authorized to enter into contract with the following named members of the faculty; President Will, Professors Parsons, Metcalf, Bemie, Ward, Walters, Miss Helen J. Wescott, Miss Harriet Howell, Professor Winston, Cotrell, Eurch, Harper, Fisher, and Weida, and further that said contracts were to run until June 30, 1901.

"Whereas, the Secretary of this board, President Will, now informs us that there is no official record of any such contracts having been entered into between any of the parties aforesaid and J. N. Limbocker, excepting in the case of President Will, who orally states that he has entered into such contract.

"Resolved, that the above statement be made a part of the minutes of this session."

The same day H. M. Cottrell, A. S. Hitchcock, J. T. Willard, Mary F. Winston, George F. Theida, Minnie A. Stoner, John D. Walters, Joseph D. Harper, A. B. Brown, E. R. Nichols and Paul Fisher were reemployed for the

²¹ Ibid., p. 284.

meeting held January second to seventh, 1899, show that the then President of the said board of regents, J. N. Limbocker, was authorized to enter into contract with the following named members of the faculty; President Will, Professors Parsons, Metcalf, Bemis, Ward, Walters, Miss Helen J. Wescott, Miss Harriet Howell, Professors Winston, Cottrell, Eurch, Harper, Fisher, and Weida, and further that said contracts were to run until June 30, 1901.

"Whereas, the Secretary of this board, President Will, now informs us that there is no official record of any such contracts having been entered into between any of the parties aforesaid and J. N. Limbocker, excepting in the case of President Will, who orally states that he has entered into such contract.

"Resolved, that the above statement be made a part of the minutes of this session."

The same day H. M. Cottrell, A. S. Hitchcock, J. T. Willard, Mary F. Winston, George F. Theida, Minnie A. Stoner, John D. Walters, Joseph D. Harper, A. B. Brown, E. R. Nichole and Paul Fisher were reemployed for the year beginning July 1, 1899.²¹

²¹ Ibid., p. 284.

Ex-President Fairchild was mentioned as the new president but Nichols was elected acting president.

In July the board ordered the stock of books in the book store to be sold to local dealers, and requested the president to enter into an agreement with local dealers to sell books at ten per cent. profit.²² The president was authorized to enter into an agreement with some club or organization of students to serve noon meals, and to replace the college dining hall.²³

²² Ibid., p. 299.

²³ Ibid., p. 313.

CONSEQUENCES OF POPULIST CONTROL

IV

The Populists had held control of the board of regents from 1893 to 1899. They had introduced new courses in political economy, because they felt that it was necessary that further instruction along this line be offered. The catalogues¹ show that the trend of further instruction was continued by the next board and faculty, even though they were of a different political party.

The curriculum was changed from one course into four separate curriculums and the foundations of divisions in engineering, home economics, agriculture and general science were laid. These separate courses were continued by the successors of the Populists and Will. It is quite probable that neither the Populist Board nor President Will were directly responsible for these changes in the curriculums; but that the splitting of the courses was the result of the influence of Professors

¹ Kansas State Agricultural College Catalogues.

Hood, Cottrell, and Campbell. Will was responsible, however, for development of the history and political economy courses. The lectures were continued and further instruction along this line given. H. K. Cottrell, the new head of the department of agriculture, was eager that his department should be enlarged. He was able to get Will and the board to heed the cry for more agriculture and so from his suggestions grew the new division of agriculture.

The first change of any great consequence was in engineering. Hood had been in the college for several years and was anxious that new improved machinery and new courses should be added. The faculty as a whole was responsible for the general course changes. Throughout the summer the faculty worked on the new courses and in the fall Mrs. Campbell worked out her plans for the home economics course. When the catalogue was printed these four new courses were outlined. In order to give the third and fourth-year students more varied work, the faculty had worked out alternative courses that allow these students an opportunity to have instruction in some of the new courses without interfering with the completion of their required work.

When the faculty members were dismissed in 1897

and in 1899 they were, in many cases, able to secure positions as good as or better than they had held at the college. The new faculty infused new life into the institution. Many new farmers courses were given.

The Populist period helped the college financially. For six or seven years of President Fairchild's administration the college funds were inadequate. In April of each year the funds would be exhausted and salaries could not even be paid until July, when the appropriations came from the federal government. Out of this fund the back salaries would be paid and all the bills paid up, and again the next year the same thing would occur. In 1898 the Populist legislature made appropriations for \$10,000 to pay up back debts, and appropriated \$5,000 for 1898 and \$5,000 for 1899 for the deficiency fund. The Populists were liberal also in their appropriation for buildings. The college expanded so rapidly that at the close of Will's administration there was a deficit of \$14,893.40. The Populists had started the fund for current expenses. Determined not to be outdone, the Republicans in 1900 and 1901 appropriated \$10,000 for each year, \$23,000 for 1902 and \$30,000 for 1903 for current expenses.²

² Statement by Dr. J. T. Willard.

In 1899 the board got an opinion from the state attorney-general that funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1 could not be used to pay indebtedness of the past. At the time, about three months' salary was due which together with unpaid bills amounted to about \$15,000. The board announced these salaries and bills would not be paid until an appropriation for them had been made. Finally the legislature made the appropriation and the college was able to start out of debt again and Acting-president Nichols made it a rule to keep within the income of the college.³

At the close of the Populist regime there was a marked fusion with the Republican party and the influence continued to work for the good of the college.

³ Ibid.,

APPENDIX I

Board of Regents for Kansas State Agricultural College
from 1885 to 1899 as taken
from the annual Catalogues.

Board of Regents 1885-1886.

Thomas Henshall, Troy, President (1890)*
A. P. Forsyth, Liberty, Vice President (1894)
John E. Hessin, Manhattan, Treasurer (1892)
T. P. Moore, Holton, Loan Commissioner (1893)
A. B. Lemmon, Newton, (1888)
J. H. Fullenwider, El Dorado (1887)
President George T. Fairchild, Secretary, ex officio.

Board of Regents 1886-1887.

A. B. Lemon, President, Newton (1888)
A. P. Forsyth, Vice President, Liberty (1888)
John Hessin, Treasurer, Manhattan (1889)
T. P. Moore, Loan Commissioner, Holton (1890)
Thomas Henshall, Troy (1890)
E. N. Smith, El Dorado, (1889)
George T. Fairchild, ex officio

Board of Regents 1887-1888.

A. P. Forsyth, President, Liberty (1891)
E. N. Smith, Vice President, El Dorado (1899)
John Hessin, Treasurer, Holton (1889)
T. P. Moore, Land Commissioner, Holton (1890)
Thomas Henshall, Troy (1890)
Joshua Wheeler, Nortonville (1891)
George T. Fairchild, ex officio

Board of Regents 1888-1889

T. P. Moore, President, Holton (1890)
Joshua Wheeler, Vice President, Nortonville (1891)
John E. Hessin, Land Commissioner (1892)
Thomas Henshall, Secretary, Kansas City (1890)
A. P. Forsyth, Liberty, (1891)
Morgan Caraway, Great Bend, (1892)
George F. Fairchild, ex officio

* Year term expires.

Board of Regents 1899-1890

Joshua Wheeler, President, Nortonville (1891)
 Morgan Caraway, Vice President, Great Bend (1892)
 John E. Hesein, Treasurer, Manhattan, (1892)
 T. P. Moore, Loan Commissioner, Holton (1892)
 R. W. Finley, Oberlin (1893)
 George T. Fairchild, ex officio

Board of Regents 1890-1891.

Morgan Caraway, President, Great Bend (1892)
 John Hesein, Treasurer, Manhattan (1892)
 T. P. Moore, Loan Commissioner, Holton (1893)
 G. T. Fairchild, Secretary, Manhattan
 A. P. Foreyth, Liberty (1894)
 Joshua Wheeler, Nortonville (1894)
 George T. Fairchild, ex-officio

Board of Regents 1891-1892.

A. P. Forsyth, President, Liberty (1894)
 R. W. Finley, Vice President, Goodland (1893)
 T. P. Moore, Loan Commissioner, Holton (1893)
 Joshua Wheeler, Treasurer, Nortonville (1894)
 F. M. Chaffee, Eureka (1895)
 R. P. Kelley, Eureka (1895)
 George T. Fairchild, ex officio

Board of Regents 1892-1893.

A. P. Forsyth, President, Liberty (1894)
 W. D. Street, Vice President, Oberlin (1896)
 Joshua Wheeler, Treasurer, Nortonville (1894)
 E. D. Stratford, Loan Commissioner, El Dorado (1895)
 Ed. Secrest, Randolph (1895)
 Harrison Kelley, Burlington (1896)
 George T. Fairchild, ex-officio, Secretary

Board of Regents 1893-1894.

W. D. Street, President, Oberlin (1896)
 Harrison Kelley, Vice President, Burlington (1896)
 Ed. Secrest, Treasurer, Randolph (1895)

E. L. Stratford, Loan Commissioner, El Dorado (1895)
 C. B. Hoffman, Enterprise (1897)
 C. E. Goodyear, Wichita (1897)
 George T. Fairchild, ex officio

Board of Regents 1894-1895.

E. D. Street, President, Oberlin (1896)
 Harrison Kelly, Vice President, Burlington (1896)
 C. B. Hoffman, Treasurer, Enterprise (1897)
 C. E. Goodyear, Loan Commissioner, Wichita (1897)
 C. B. Daughters, Lincoln (1898)
 C. R. Noe, Leon (1898)
 George T. Fairchild, ex officio

Board of Regents 1895-1896

A. P. Riddle, President, Minneapolis*
 C. E. Goodyear, Vice President, Oatville (1897)
 C. B. Daughters, Treasurer, Lincoln (1898)
 C. R. Noe, Loan Commissioner, Leon (1898)
 C. B. Hoffman, Enterprise (1897)
 S. J. Stewart, Humboldt (1899)
 George T. Fairchild, ex officio

Board of Regents 1896-1897.

Harrison Kelley, President, Burlington (1901)
 Mrs. Susan St. John, Vice President, Olathe (1901)
 C. B. Hoffman, Treasurer, Enterprise (1901)
 T. J. Hudson, Loan Commissioner, Fredonia (1899)
 C. R. Noe, Leon (1898)
 C. B. Daughters, Lincoln (1898)
 J. N. Limbocker, Manhattan (1901)
 President Thomas E. Will, ex officio, Secretary

Board of Regents 1897-1898.

J. N. Limbocker, President, Manhattan (1901)
 Mrs. Susan St. John, Vice President, Olathe (1901)
 C. B. Hoffman, Treasurer, Enterprise (1901)
 T. J. Hudson, Loan Commissioner, Fredonia (1899)

* Resigned April 1896.

George E. Munger, Eureka (1901)
 William H. Phipps, Abilene (1899)
 E. B. Cowgill, Topeka (1899)
 Thomas E. Will, ex officio

Board of Regents 1898-1899.

E. T. Fairchild, President, Ellsworth (1903)
 J. S. McDowell, Vice President, Smith Center (1901)
 E. T. Yoe, Treasurer, Independence (1901)
 William Hunter, Loan Commissioner, Blue Rapids (1903)
 Carl Vrooman, Parsons (1901)
 J. M. Satterthwaite, Douglas (1903)
 E. R. Nichols, Acting President, ex officio Secretary
 Mrs Susan St. John, Olathe (1901)

APPENDIX II

Senate Bill Number 547.

An Act to provide for the Government of the Kansas State Agriculture College. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:- Sec. 1. The government of the college is vested in a Board of seven Regents, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and whose term of office shall be four years. Five of the said regents shall be appointed on or before the first day of April 1897, one of whom shall hold his office until the first day of April, 1899, and four of whom shall hold their office until the first day of April, 1901; two shall be appointed on or before the first day of April 1898, to hold office until the first day of April 1899, and on or before the first day of April, 1899 and every four years thereafter previous to the first day of April, three regents and after the first day of April, 1897, four regents, shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for a term of four years each, their terms expiring on the first of April. But nothing in this act shall be construed so as to restrain the Governor from appointing Regents before the expiration of the regular

legislative session. Whenever any vacancy shall occur in the said Board of Regents. It shall be the duty of the Governor at once to appoint some suitable person to fill the vacancy. And when any appointment is made while the Legislature is not in session, the appointee shall hold his office until action is taken upon his appointment in the Senate; and if the Senate fails to take action thereon, his term of office shall expire at the close of the session and the Governor shall fill the vacancy as in other cases.

Sec. 2. No one connected with the college as professor, tutor, teacher, or employee, shall be a Regent.

Sec. 3. The Regents shall elect a president, who shall be the chief officer of the College, and the head of each department thereof, and the Secretary of the Board of Regents, and whose duties and powers, otherwise than as prescribed in this act shall be prescribed by the Board of Regents.

Sec. 4. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Topeka State Journal.
Laws of Kansas, Topeka, 1897, pp. 97, 98.

APPENDIX III

"The Board of Regents of the Kansas State Agricultural College, having been vested by the people of the state of Kansas, through their lawfully constituted authorities, with full power to administer the affairs of said college, and recognizing our responsibility to the people of this state, submit the following statement of reasons for certain changes we recently made at that institution.

"Following are facts which said Board of Regents are prepared to substantiate:

"1 The government of the institution which by law is vested in a board of regents, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, has been practically assumed and for years exercised by a single employee of the board, filling the office of President of the college, the board having been reduced, meanwhile, to the rank of a mere auditing committee. The attempt of the present board regularly to exercise lawful functions was resisted by him, and led to his voluntary and unsuggested resignation.

"2 The tendency in the past to swamp the faculty with half educated men has been so marked as to excite

comment. Of all those removed, one alone, who himself has been succeeded by an abler man, could claim to have made fairly respectable special preparation for the high duties of professor in a college. That this condition of affairs was satisfactory to the outgoing president is evidenced not only by the fact that these professors came, or at least remained, by his sanction, but by the following official declaration from his pen: "It is rare, indeed, that so efficient a corps of instructors can be retained so long as ours has been." (Tenth and last biennial report of board of regents to governor of Kansas, p. 31.) Yet, notwithstanding the now considerably reduced schedule of salaries, and the false light in which certain persons and newspapers have endeavored to place this institution and its present management, men and women trained in the best universities of America and Europe have applied to us for professorships.

"3 Despite the imperative need for a strong agricultural department in the agricultural college of a state whose leading interests are agricultural, and despite the fact that the land grant colleges were established and are still maintained for the special benefit of the agricultural and industrial classes, the inefficiency of the agricultural as compared with

other departments of the college is notorious, both at the college and throughout the state. Nevertheless, every attempt to strengthen the agricultural department, whether by increasing its work, or by filling it with a more capable professor, has been until now steadily and successfully resisted by the President. Other departments whose work should be of great protective value to farmers, fruit growers, and stock raisers, have similarly been characterized by incapacity well known to those familiar with the college.

"4 While some departments have thus been crippled by the inefficiency of their heads, others have been neglected by professors and superintendents who have regarded their office more as services than as field of labor; the work of a certain department having been left, not occasionally, but habitually, in the hands of an assistant, that the head of the department might witness or engage in sports.

"5 The distribution of work among the professors has been such that while some have been left for an entire term practically without duties or responsibilities; and certainly without teaching, others have during the same terms been overwhelmed with their own work, or even with that of other departments.

"The conduct of the experiment station has in cases been scandalous; so much so in fact as to elicit warnings from friends of the outgoing administration and a vehement attack by the leading Republican organ of the state.¹ While certain members of the station council, with their assistants have done the work which has enabled the station to maintain its standing at Washington, others with their assistants have satisfied themselves primarily with drawing their salaries; one department having published nothing to show for its work and receipts since its separate establishment in September, 1897; and its head having done apparently almost nothing in the way of experimental work and publication since 1890 if not since 1883."

"7 In addition to the preceeding, there exist certain differences (not political) between the board and the retiring administration; differences regarding the degree of freedom which should be accorded to students in the choice of studies, in the expression of opinion, as through a college paper, and in the opportunity to become in a measure acquainted with the college world.

¹ Topeka Capital, Feby. 5, 1897, p.4; Feby. 12, 1897, p. 4.

"We differ in part with the outgoing administration in questions of the administration of discipline; the board believing that in certain well defined cases students have been provoked by professors into acts of insubordination, and then punished; said professors escaping uncensored, save by public opinion.

"We differ fundamentally, moreover, with respect to certain aspects of the work of an agricultural college. Hitherto the attempt has been made in this college to impart to the students the rudiments of a general education to supplement this with a measure of instruction of a college grade, to train the hands in industrial work, and prepare the student for the function of wealth producers. All of this, generally speaking, and so far as it goes, we endorse. We hold, however, that the time has come when such an education no longer suffices for the wants either of the student or of the agricultural and industrial classes. The wide diffusion of popular education has practically destroyed the scholars monopoly, and the college graduate is found in the ranks of the unemployed. Further, to seek to advance the interests of the producing classes by teaching them simply to produce more abundantly no longer meets their requirements; for, by common consent, they are already overproducing

the staples and, in large part, the luxuries of life; such over-production, accompanied by a corresponding under-consumption on the part of the majority of the population, resulting in enormously low prices and in gluts and in industrial stagnation. We believe the time has fully come when the producing classes must grapple scientifically and intelligently with the principles governing distribution and exchange. This necessity, however, the retiring administration will not concede. Attempts made in the past to enlarge the facilities for such instruction, not on partisan, but on scientific lines, have been steadily and rigorously opposed both by the president and by an overwhelming majority of the faculty. With the issue thus clearly defined, it became inevitable that either the board or the president and faculty must give way.

"In view of the foregoing facts, this board resolved at its April meeting to take action. Such action, however, was not hasty. One member of its majority is an old resident of Manhattan and patron of the institution; two others have served each a full three year term on a previous board, and have long been convinced of the need for a thorough reorganization of the college. The board began by removing five professors and superintendents, while the president and

two professors resigned, one resignation being independent of the reorganization. At the first June meeting, three other professors whose cases had been left pending, were removed, and with them two assistants. At the second June meeting another voluntary resignation occurred. These places the board are filling with the best available talent in the world of scholarship.

"As to the political aspect of the changes made: On the resignation of the president, a strong Republican, the board appointed in his stead a professor who has declared himself, to boards Republican, Democratic and Populist, to be an independent in politics. Of the fourteen members of the old faculty to whom positions were offered, twelve are understood to be Republicans. These were retained because they were believed to be competent to perform the work of their several departments.

"As documentary evidence in our possession shows we have endeavored, regardless of politics, to secure for the vacant places men and women of the most thorough equipment. We have elected men to important positions without inquiring or learning their political preferences, and we have elected to the chair of economic science a professor whose views on certain economic questions we

know to be widely different from our own.

"Our sole object, we assert, in effecting the recent reorganization, is to raise the standard, increase the efficiency and enlarge the usefulness of the institution committed to our charge.

"As to the purposes of the board, it is our intention: (1) to increase the quantity and quality of the agricultural instruction in the course; (2) greatly to strengthen the mathematical department by increasing the quantity and improving the quality of its work; (3) to increase the amount of economic and sociological work in the required courses, and to ascertain, if possible by scientific investigations, the cause of industrial depression and the path to truer individual and general prosperity; (4) to facilitate the opportunities for the instruction and training of women in the lines of domestic economics, by constructing and equipping the much needed and commodious building allowed the college by the last legislature, and placing at its head an authority of international reputation on question of domestic economics; (5) to reorganize the force of the experiment station, placing in charge men who will make this branch of the institution more genuinely helpful to the agricultural classes; (6) to encourage the development of individuality

and the capacity and opportunity for students to specialize more closely in agricultural and mechanical lines; (7) to systematize the post graduate course, and to substitute regular instruction, with laboratory and library work, for work largely desultory and undirected, and thus to make the master's degree more truly representative of the work for which it is supposed to stand; and (8) to raise the institution above the level of partisan politics by ensuring to competent men the opportunity to teach in this college, regardless of the ticket they vote.

"It remains for the board to state its attitude toward the question of the freedom of science and teaching. We hold the principle of freedom of science equal in rank and importance with the principles of freedom of thought, of speech, of the press, and of the ballot. We note with deep concern the menace to this and other forms of true freedom through the steady aggrandizement of power in the hands of organized wealth. We find alleged economists in cases prostituting their science to the service of their masters, while men of unquestioned attainments, who refuse to distort and conceal important truth, and to sell their manhood for bread, are tried for economic heresy, or dismissed on

spurious pretexts, and practically blacklisted; a subservient press concealing, condoning, or applauding the act. The history of Kansas from the days of John Brown until the present demands that this state shall continue the home of freedom; and this board are resolved that in one college, at least, competent men shall be at liberty to investigate, to teach, and to publish, even on economic and social lines as freely as do their collaborators in other fields of scientific research.²

²

Minutes of the Board of Regents, Vol. B, pp. 160-163.

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