

David E. Folsom Vindicated.

The Truth on Fire.

Friends in Numbers Make Answer to the Infamous Charges Preferred Against One of the Best Citizens of Meagher County, or of Montana.

In the Neihart Miner of Oct. 27, 1892, appeared the following letter attacking the character of David E. Folsom, candidate on the republican ticket in Meagher county for senatorial honor:

READ THIS.

Charges Against Dave Folsom Which He Cannot Deny—An Open Enemy of the Workingman.

Workingmen, Remember the Strike at the Cumberland in the Winter of 1891 and Vote Accordingly.

NEIHART, Mont., Oct. 25, '92.
Editor Miner,

Time, they say, makes all things even, and now as one of the laboring men arrested at Castle in 1891 at the instigation of Dave Folsom and his gang I want to do my part towards exposing his acts at that time and in

office this enemy of labor. In February, 1891, I, in company with about twenty others was employed on rock work on the Castle smelter, then beginning to be built. We had a labor union and the rate of wages was \$3 per day. Dave Folsom and Len Lewis were two of the heaviest stockholders, and by their orders a cut of fifty cents a day was ordered. We went on a strike and both these gentlemen sent men off their ranches to take our places. A meeting of the union was held wherein it was decided to call on these men in a body to persuade them not to work for less than \$3 per day. Folsom had some of his tools at the meeting who informed him of what took place and Folsom at once secured the service of Sheriff Rader, a willing tool, with a lot of deputies, and when we arrived on the ground the sheriff and deputies armed with Winchester and with a lot of sleighs ready, placed fifty-one of us under arrest and carried us to White Sulphur Springs. Then the farce of justice began. This Dave Folsom and his tools went around White Sulphur Springs finding out who was for and who against labor and from those against a jury was selected. The tax payers made such an outcry about the expense that only two were placed on trial. They were ably defended by Powell Black, the present candidate for county attorney on the democratic ticket, but with such a jury of course they were found guilty. An appeal was taken to the district court and bail was fixed. Then came Folsom's hand again into play. He worked every way he knew how to prevent any person going on their bonds, but one man they could neither cajole nor bulldoze, "Bill" Sutherland, who is now a candidate for the legislature on the democratic ticket. He

stepped to the front like a man and furnished bonds. At this time Folsom denounced all organized labor, and particularly the Miners' union, saying that if it was not for the union he could fill the Cumberland mine with men at \$30 per month. This is the same Folsom who now asks us laboring men to vote for him in preference to that consistent friend of the workingman, Ed. Murphy. No honest laborer who knows Folsom and his record can vote for him; no man who knows and recollects the treatment our union at Castle received at his hands will vote for him, and I, myself, being personally one of the arrested, will take pleasure in voting and working against Folsom and in favor of that honest capable man, Ed. Murphy.

Respectfully,
GEORGE MCGOWAN.

These charges have been met by Mr. Folsom in a very manful way. He says they are not true but seeks in no manner to vilify either his accuser or his opponent. In a most considerate way he has explained the truth in reference to the maledictions and has given proof evident that what he says is true. He is well known to most of our citizens and by these individually is spoken of in the highest terms as being possessed of his private and true integrity in all his dealings.

Mr. Folsom, as is seen, is charged with, (1) cutting the wages; (2) helping to arrest strikers; (3) filling vacancies in the labor with men off his ranch; (4) meddling in the trial; (5) packing a jury; (6) trying to prevent the procuring of bail; (7) howling at the same time against all organized labor.

James T. Anderson, a democrat, of his own free will makes affidavit as follows:

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Meagher, } ss.

James T. Anderson being first duly sworn says: that on the 9th day of February, A. D., 1891, he was the Secretary of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting Company; that on that date David E. Folsom was not a stockholder in the above-named company, having previously sold his stock in said company to Len Lewis, Charles E. Severance, et al., and further affiant says not.

JAMES T. ANDERSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of October, A. D., 1892.

David Penwell,
Notary Public.

In further vindication, Mr. J. O. Hussey comes forward with his statement. He declares that the candidate for senator is falsely and maliciously accused. That he had no entanglement whatever in the aforesaid

strike, and that he had no connection either with the employment of the men or with the prosecution which followed.

State of Montana, }
County of Meagher, } ss.

John O. Hussey being first duly sworn says: I had the contract for grading the smelter site at Castle, Montana, and in order to make as much out of the contract as I reasonably could, I employed men at such figures as I could get them. David Folsom, the present candidate for senator from this county had nothing whatever to do with any reduction of wages of men who worked upon the smelter site. I was present during the trial of the so-called strikers and know of my own personal knowledge that Mr. Folsom had nothing whatever to do with their prosecution. No men left Folsom's ranch to work upon the smelter site. I make this affidavit to place Mr. Folsom right before the voters of Meagher county, and to right the wrong done him through an article that appeared in the Neihart Miner of the date of October 27 1892, and signed by George McGowan, and further affiant says not.

JOHN O. HUSSEY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of October, 1892.

DAVID PENWELL, Notary Public.

It would seem that nothing more is necessary to show that the letter of Mr. McGowan is maliciously libelous. The voluntary affidavit of Charles E. Severance, president of the Cumberland mining and smelting company, shows that Mr. Folsom not only was not interested in the company's business but that he expressed himself as believing the policy of reducing wages a poor one.

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Meagher, } ss.

Charles E. Severance, being first duly sworn, says: "I am 37 years of age, a resident of Oka, Meagher county and the president of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company, that I have read the article of one George McGowan, published in the Neihart Miner of the 27th of October, setting forth the acts of David E. Folsom in relation to the trouble of the working men and the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company. I have this day examined the books of the said company and find that all the stock standing in the name of David E. Folsom was sold and transferred on the 15th day of October, 1890, and that at the time of the said trouble Mr. Folsom was not interested in the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company either directly or indirectly. In a subsequent conversation I had with Mr. Folsom, he made the remark that he considered the policy of the Trustees of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company in cutting down wages was a very poor one."

CHAS. E. SEVERANCE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of October 1892.

JAMES M. ADDLE,
Notary Public.

[SEAL]

A democrat, John A. Woodson, who proposes to vote for Mr. Murphy, also says the following:

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Meagher. } ss.

John A. Woodson, being duly sworn, says: "That during the time of the trouble with the strikers at the Cumberland mine in the month of February, A. D., 1891, David E. Folsom was not an owner in the Cumberland mine, having months previous to that time transferred all his stock in the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company to Len Lewis et al.; that during the trial of the strikers at White Sulphur Springs I met Mr. Folsom in Helena, Montana and we had some conversation concerning the reduction of wages on the work on the Smelter Site at the Cumberland; and in that conversation we agreed that it was bad policy on the part of the company to have any reduction of wages. Affiant further says; that he is a democrat and intends to vote for Mr. Murphy, but simply makes this statement in defence of Mr. Folsom, against the erroneous charge made by Mr. McGowan in the Neihart Miner of the date of October 27th 1892.

JOHN A. WOODSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of October, A. D., 1892.

DAVID PENWELL,
Notary Public.

[SEAL]

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Meagher. } ss.

Daniel Sharp being first duly sworn, says: "I am 51 years of age and a resident of Castle, and was a member of the Castle Labor union of Castle. I was one of the men arrested at the time of the trouble between the laboring men and the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company in February, 1891, and personally know that David E. Folsom was not present at the so called strike and had nothing to do with the so called strikers in any manner or form whatsoever. I will also state that David E. Folsom was the best friend of the working man that has ever been in Castle.

"I will also state that George McGowan is unknown to me, and that after a carefully examined report of the books of the Castle Labor union, I find that the said George McGowan was not and has never been a member of the Castle Labor union of Castle."

DANIEL SHARP.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of October, 1892.

JAMES M. ADDLE,
Notary Public.

[SEAL]

Mr. Folsom advised not to stand the cut in wages.

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Meagher. } ss.

Owen Tierney being first duly sworn says: "I am 40 years of age and a resident of Castle, and I have read the letter of George McGowan, published in the Neihart Miner of the 27th of October, 1892, setting forth the statement that David E. Folsom, the candidate for State Senator on the republican ticket, is an enemy of high wages and labor. I wish to state that I have known the said David E. Folsom for about four years, and worked under him in the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company from the time he took charge of this property as general manager until he left and I have always found him to be a loyal friend to the laboring man at all times. During that time he never tried to cut down wages, to my knowledge, but always paid full price."

OWEN TIERNEY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of October, 1892.

JAMES M. ADDLE,
Notary Public.

[SEAL]

The Miners' union was in no way, directly or indirectly, interested in the strike.

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Meagher. } ss.

Alvin Peter Westbrook, being duly sworn says: "I am 31 years of age, a resident of Castle and a member of the Castle Mountain Miners' union of Castle. I have read the letter of George McGowan, published in the Neihart Miner of the 27th of October, referring to the acts of David E. Folsom at the strike of the workmen at the Cumberland Mining & Milling company in February 1891. I was in the employ of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company during the management of said David E. Folsom, both at day's wages and by contract work on the Cumberland mine and the Great Eastern mine. To the best of my knowledge and belief, said David E. Folsom was not present at the said strike did not direct, assist or encourage the arrest of the men striking and was not at the time of the said strike the manager of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company. The Miners' union was in no way, either directly or indirectly interested in the strike. I am personally acquainted with the said David E. Folsom, and feel safe in saying that I have always believed him to be a friend to labor. I have been a member of the Castle Mountain Miners' union of Castle since its institution here and have carefully examined the books of the said union, and find that the name of said George McGowan is not enlisted upon the membership roll of the Castle Mountain Miners' union and that the said George McGowan is not, and never was a member of the said union.

"I further state in company with Daniel Sharp of Castle, who is a member of the Castle Mountain Miners' union and the Castle Labor union, I have this day very carefully looked over the books of the Castle Labor union and find that the said George McGowan was never a member of the said union."

ALVIN PETER WESTBROOK.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of October 1892.

W. W. PARKER,
Justice of the Peace.

[SEAL]

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Meagher. } ss.

Robert O. Woodmansee, being duly sworn says: "I am 27 years of age, a resident of Castle, and was a member of the Castle Mountain Miners' union of Castle. I was present at the strike of the workmen at the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company in February 1891. I have read the letter of George McGowan, published in the Neihart Miner of the 27th of October 1892, referring to the acts of David E. Folsom at said strike. Said David E. Folsom was not present at the strike, did not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, direct, assist in, or encourage the arrest of the men striking and was not at the time manager of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company. At the time of the said strike I was a member of the Castle Mountain Miners' union and am certain that the said Castle Mountain Miners' union was in no way, either directly or indirectly, interested in this strike. I was in the employ of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company during the entire time of the management of the

said David E. Folsom. He has always been a friend to the laboring man."

ROBERT O. WOODMANSEE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of October, 1892.

W. W. PARKER,
Justice of the Peace.

[SEAL]

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Meagher. } ss.

George Westbrook, being first duly sworn says: "I am 24 years of age, a resident of Castle, Montana and a member of the Castle Mountain Miners' union of Castle. I was present at the strike of workmen at the Cumberland mine in February 1891. I have read the letter by George McGowan, published in the Neihart Miner, Oct. 27th, 1892., referring to the acts of David E. Folsom at the said strike. Said David E. Folsom was not present at said strike, did not direct, assist in, or encourage the arrest of the men striking, to my knowledge and was not at the time manager of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company. Mr. Folsom, to my knowledge, has always been a friend to labor."

GEO. WESTBROOK.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of October, 1892.

LAFAYETTE PEEVEY,
Notary Public.

[SEAL]

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Meagher. } ss.

Malachi R. Cordeiro, being first duly sworn, says: "I am 60 years of age, a resident of Castle, and that I have read the article of one George McGowan, published in the Neihart Miner of the 27th of October, setting forth the acts of David E. Folsom in relation to the so-called strike between the working men and the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company in February 1891. At the time of the said trouble I was constable of Castle Township and was at the Cumberland mine on official business when I was called by William Gorden, who at that time was in charge of the grading of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company's smelter, requesting me to assist in quelling the disturbance. I assisted in the arrest of these men, being in company with William Rader, the Sheriff of Meagher county and Len Lewis, the general manager of the said Cumberland Mining & Smelting company at the time.

The said David E. Folsom was not at the mine at the time of the said trouble, nor was he in Castle, and to the best of my knowledge and belief he was in no way, either directly or indirectly, connected or interested in this trouble.

I am personally acquainted with the same David E. Folsom, and was in the employ of the Cumberland Mining & Smelting company during the entire time the said David E. Folsom was the general manager of the said company. I always thought the said David E. Folsom to be a friend to the laboring man, he always having as far as possible and consistent, having shown a preference for men of families."

MALACHI R. CORDEIRO.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of October, 1892.

JAMES M. ADDLE,
Notary Public.

[SEAL]

The best friend the working man ever had in Castle was this David E. Folsom. Furthermore, Geo. McGowan was never a member of the Castle Labor union of Castle.—Neihart Herald, Nov. 5.