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The leaders of the Rhode Island democracy were all of the most radical sort, worse; if such a thing could be, than Bryan and Tom Johnson. And they knocked out Aldrich and carried the state!

Some of the mullet heads in Nebraska actually believe that Mickey will be governor after the 1st of January. The poor creatures have never heard of John N. Baldwin, the next governor of Nebraska.

As Mr. De Hart points out, "fusion" is a term which must be defined with reference to locality. In the Second congressional district of Nebraska it means a union of the democratic and populist forces. In the Tenth district of New Jersey it means a union of Bryan democrats and republicans.

Secretary Shaw has reversed his ruling that banks could deposit with the treasury state and city bonds as collateral to secure government loans. It is reported that Teddy sent for him and plainly indicated that if that sort of thing was not stopped he would have to get a new secretary of the treasury.

The amount of reforming that the "friends of protection" will do to extortionate tariff rates can be inferred from the jubilation that was held at the Massachusetts republican headquarters the night after the election over the defeat of Foss, who was a republican that really wanted some reforming done.

With a reduced majority in congress the republican leaders are still claiming that the trusts can be more completely overthrown by the party that created them, and that the evils of protection can be sooner abolished by protectionists than by those who have always opposed protection. Every mullet head answers back: "Yep. That's so."

The worst thing about trusts is not their blood-sucking power. It is the political power which they wield. Out in Colorado one of these trusts, employing thousands of men, forced them all to vote against an eight-hour law in the mines and every other proposition that was submitted to them which was intended to benefit labor by constitutional amendment.

New York democracy, under the leadership of David B. Hill, has become more "ring, streaked and stippled" than Jacob's cattle. It went into socialism and demanded the government ownership of coal mines, and the attorney general that they nominated was elected by the prohibition vote. Prohibition and socialism is the outcome of Hill's efforts to down Bryan and beat the income tax.

**HARRIS, HEITFELD, PATTERSON**

The Independent remarked before the election that it would have something to say to Senators Harris, Heitfeld and Patterson after the votes were counted, and it now proceeds to say it.

No organization was ever so betrayed by its leaders as the people's party has been, and only the undying love of liberty and devotion to principle of the rank and file has preserved it from disintegration. Loucks, the chairman of the Omaha convention, who was the loudest of all in his denunciation of republican policies, turned traitor and went back to the republican party. Senator Peffer, who was chosen senator from Kansas because he had established one of the first populist newspapers and fought the corruption of the old parties in Kansas, deserted and joined the ranks of the men whom he had declared were simply the minions of plutocracy and greed. Senator Kyle from South Dakota did likewise. Senator Allen was defeated, but remains a populist. That left the populist party with three United States senators, Harris of Kansas, Heitfeld of Idaho and Patterson of Colorado. These three did not desert their principles as had the others, but did what was almost as bad—they forsook their party and asked admission to the democratic caucus of the senate. The Independent does not attack their motives. They, without doubt, believed that that was the wisest course in the interests of their constituents and for the furtherance of the principles which they were elected to advocate. The Independent believes that the action thus taken by them was exceedingly unwise and foreboded nothing but defeat. When the three or four populist senators were accustomed to hold their party caucus in the elevator, as the reporters were in the habit of saying, they were an influence that had to be reckoned with in the senate. When they went over, bag and baggage, into the democratic party, instead of having more influence on legislation, they had less. Then the act took the enthusiasm out of the populists in their states and has resulted, just as The Independent has always held that it would—each of the states represented by these gentlemen has been captured by the republicans.

There was no necessity for this act. The populist party was supporting Bryan and the Kansas City platform with enthusiasm. They advocated everything that was in that platform without mental reservation or evasion. They believed that they had led the democratic party up to it and were confident that they could lead it on until in the democratic platform, as in the populist platform, would be found a demand for the government ownership of railroads, telegraphs and municipal utilities. But the populists were determined to hold their organization until that time came. They felt that if they abandoned their organization, the democratic party would make no more advances. They feared that the tendencies to reaction, backed as they were by millions of dollars, might in the end prevail, and men just as plutocratic as those in control of the republican party get control of the democratic party and in that case they did not wish to be left without an organization. They knew how much of time, money and toil it had cost to get an organization that could be relied upon to fight trusts, banks of issue and railroad domination of state legislatures and congress.

That the going over into the democratic party of the three populist senators caused thousands of populists to lose all courage and enthusiasm and reduce the populist vote cannot be doubted. The long lists of "stay-at-homes" on election day shows that. If populists elect any more United States senators they will want to be assured that they will not only not

break away, but will stand without hitching.

**HOWL FOR "MORE MONEY"**

For two or three years The Independent has been calling the attention of its readers to the inflation of credit and the dangers involved in it for all the people. Many bankers in the west have taken the advice of this paper and have kept their reserves as far as possible out of Wall street. One banker who saw a part of a financial article quoted in another paper sent to the editor of The Independent for a copy of that edition, and when he was informed that there was not one left, sent \$2 to pay a typewriter for copying it in full. After receiving it he wrote to the editor saying if he had had that article in 1893 he would now be better off by at least \$50,000. When the republican press, great daily and little weekly, have been advertising the fact of the great increase in deposits, claiming that the people had \$4,000,000,000 of money in the banks because deposits amounted to that much, The Independent continued to tell the truth about the matter so its readers have safeguarded against this enormous inflation. Very few populists in Nebraska who are readers of The Independent are now in debt and many of them have mortgages on the property of the mullet heads, which they will proceed to foreclose when the panic comes just to give them a needful lesson.

At last the bankers themselves are beginning to repeat what The Independent has been saying for the last three years. President Herrick of the American Bankers' association, in his speech last week at New Orleans, very tersely stated the situation, using almost the exact words of The Independent. He said:

"While we boast of an increase of \$4,000,000,000 in bank deposits throughout the country in the four years last past, we are not unmindful of the fact that during that period the banks have shown no increase in the amount of real, tangible money, such as gold, silver and legal tender. The loans have kept pace with this abnormal growth in deposits. During this period also we have become indebted in the way of temporary loans abroad amounting, probably, to \$200,000,000. Does this not show an undue expansion of bank credits and an overloading of the money market with debt?"

It is now evident that all the energies of the trust and Wall street banking interests will be brought to bear upon congress the coming winter to further increase the currency. As all the gold and silver mined is now coined, no increase can be had there and it must come in some form of paper money. Notes issued against assets will probably be the form adopted. Then when the crash comes, depositors will have nothing. Morgan, Gates and the whole trust push will be down at Washington this winter demanding "more money."

There is a hydraulic engineer out in Colorado who should be granted the grand prix for originality. Instead of building reservoirs, he proposes to manufacture glaciers. He says that by flooding the canons in the mountains one or two feet at a time and letting it freeze, that very slight and inexpensive works will hold it and thus a glacier can be built up many feet in thickness which, when the hot weather comes, will melt by slow degrees and furnish water for irrigation and placer mining.

In no other country on earth could such a series of trials lasting four years, as in the case of Roland B. Molineux, charged with murder, have occurred. The criminal law in this country is a disgrace to civilization. Molineux, after being once sentenced to death, and held in prison for four years, was acquitted by the jury after deliberating thirteen minutes.

**THE SCHOOL FUND**

Heretofore The Independent has referred to him as F. "Necessity" Prout, because, as Senator Allen so kindly showed in the Madison Mail, "Necessity knows no law." But there is another adage which declares that "Necessity is the mother of invention," and it is from this standpoint that we shall use the term this time—always, however, reserving the right to intend the other meaning when the attorney general acts as he did in the Standard Oil case, the starch case, and others similar. Besides, we have a notion that Norris Brown or W. L. Rose really studied out the ingenious argument we are about to mention.

As is well known to those who really keep in touch with state business, the greatest problem in Nebraska government today, not excepting the tax problem, is how to keep the educational trust funds invested. Under fusion administration a permanent practice was made of buying general fund state warrants as an investment, and this gave temporary relief. But it ought not to become a fixture in Nebraska finance, because it means a permanent floating debt—paradoxical as that may sound—and good finance requires that the state do business on a cash basis, which would wipe out warrants as a possibility for investment.

Section 9 of the constitution of Nebraska, after reciting that these funds shall "remain forever inviolate and undiminished," goes on to say that they "shall not be invested or loaned except on United States or state securities, or registered county bonds of this state." The supreme court has held that a state warrant, issued against a tax levy duly made, is a "state security" within the meaning of this constitutional provision. But the question has never been raised until now just what might be included in the term "state securities." It has usually been the opinion of those who had charge of making these investments that "Nebraska state securities" were the only ones constitutionally available.

After some dickering with a firm dealing in state bonds, the present board decided to buy \$300,000 of Massachusetts state bonds at a figure which will net the school fund 3 per cent. The legality of this course was presented to the attorney general and he advised the board that the term "state securities" includes the bonds of any state in the union, arguing that the words "of this state" applied to county bonds were added intentionally in order to prohibit the purchase of bonds issued by counties in other states. The punctuation and language seem to bear out the attorney general's contention. Although the deal has been arranged, yet in order to be sure about the matter, Treasurer Stuefer will refuse to pay for the bonds and a writ of mandamus will be asked for of the supreme court to compel him to do so, and thus the whole question can be judicially determined. The Independent compliments these gentlemen for adopting this course, which is in sharp contrast to their acts in the matter of converting a school land lease into a sale contract.

What the court will do is, of course, a matter of speculation. There is little doubt that the constitution would not be violated by the purchase of Massachusetts state bonds, if the question hinges solely upon a construction of the English used in the quoted sentence. And even viewed from the standpoint of necessity, which is a higher law than any mere arrangement of ink and white paper, there is good reason why the court should not be too narrow in its construction.

Naturally this will not release the board from its duty to exercise sound discretion in the purchase of investments. If bonds of other states may legally be purchased, it does not follow that the bonds of ANY state would