

The Nebraska Independent

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Lincoln, Neb.

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The republican big medicine bag is still safe and remains in the family of Aldrich.

The Independent's circulation is increasing in the larger educational institutions of the country.

The Indiana legislature has passed a bill prohibiting child insurance and providing a penalty of \$1,000 for issuing such a policy. Some of the vile eastern legislatures would do well to go and do likewise.

Captain Ashby's article on "Money and the Taxing Power," although as yet only in the preliminary stages, is attracting considerable attention. Students of political economy will do well to read each article carefully.

It is said that Rockefeller is about to tax the people of the United States another \$10,000,000 by again raising the price of oil, one-tenth of which he will devote to charity by giving another million to the Chicago university.

The persecution of the Baptists in New England never retarded the growth of the denomination. The modern John the Baptist, whose surname is Rockefeller, may do the denomination immensely more harm than persecution ever did.

The people of Arcola, Ill., headed by the ministers, lawyers, bankers and policemen, looted a train of sixteen cars loaded with coal. After they got their houses warmed up they all went to church and sang: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Professor Garner, who has devoted seven years of his life to studying the language of monkeys, says he has learned only seven words so far. If he had devoted half that time to reading the editorial drivel in the great dailies, he would now know the whole language.

The policy of The Independent is to get every man who is opposed to the republican party, that is, opposed to exorbitant tariffs, trusts, railroad discriminations and imperialism, to vote for the same candidates. If that can be done by organizing a new party, then let us organize one. If it can be done by adopting a new name, very well—let us do that.

The most dangerous ignorance this world has, or ever will have to contend with, is educated ignorance. Think of the position that the "wise" and "learned" took in relation to economic questions in 1890 and 1892 when the "unlearned" farmers were promulgating principles through the farmers' alliance which all the world has since been forced to acknowledge to be of the highest importance to the welfare of mankind.

REPUBLICAN MEDICINE BAG

For years whenever a republican spell-binder announced to a cheering audience that "the foreigner pays the tax" they always answered back with a mighty shout: "Yep, that's so." But now a change seems to have come over the spirit of their dreams. The house and senate with the exception of five republican members, who were all directly interested in the coal trade, voted to pass a bill to remove the tariff on coal for one year as a means to relieve the coal famine and bring down the price. If the foreigner pays the tax, this will be a great favor to the people of Nova Scotia and other coal operators in Canada and Great Britain who have been shipping coal to the United States for the last few months.

In every Indian tribe there is a medicine bag, sacred and holy. A certain family is put in charge of it and they keep it from generation to generation safe from the sight or touch of the remainder of the tribe. The republicans have a like custom. The tariff is a sacred thing and it is in the charge of the family of Aldrich. No matter what distress comes upon the people, how many suffer or die, the tariff must not be touched. In this matter of coal they held fast to their medicine bag. No schedule is altered. The tariff on coal will be collected as usual, but it will all be paid back to the importers. That is what the bill provides that was rushed through congress in a few hours.

The tariff provides that all anthracite coal carrying less than 92 per cent carbon shall pay the same duty as bituminous coal. As there is no anthracite with such a percentage of carbon, there has been the same duty on it as on bituminous. Notwithstanding this, the republicans have insisted that anthracite was on the free list. The president demanded that the tariff should be taken off and Aldrich to save the sacred tariff schedules offered an amendment that the law should be so construed as to place anthracite on the free list which was adopted. So the "big medicine bag" of the republicans remains untouched in the hands of the Aldrich family, and "the foreigner pays the tax."

Remember you should send your order for a 1904 recruiting coupon book. You can easily send ten or more subscribers for 1904 recruits within the next month. It costs you nothing to try. Any coupons not sold may be returned.

THE USELESS DAILIES

The value of The Independent as compared with the great plutocratic dailies can be plainly seen when a review of the way this coal famine has been treated by them is made. In the very beginning The Independent pointed out that there could be no real scarcity of coal. Bituminous coal, lying near the surface, covered a large part of the middle states and was to be found almost anywhere except in the arid and semi-arid regions, and it was found in very large quantities in some places even there. The supply of coal was abundant, that no man denied. As to getting it to market, there had been 5,000 miles of new railroad lines laid during the last year. The roads had purchased hundreds of new locomotives and thousands of freight cars during the year. They had straightened their curves and lowered their grades. In every department their equipment had been increased. It was nonsense to say that the roads could not haul coal enough to keep the people from suffering from cold. These were facts that were within the knowledge of every man of ordinary intelligence.

When the people began to call for coal and could get none, what did the great dailies do? They said that there was a coal famine and let it go at that. They published editorials treating upon the following subjects: "The

Passing of the American Indian." "A Diplomat Who Ought to Succeed." "Western Leadership in Education." "Dr. Abbott on Printing Criminal News." "Senator Aldrich's Coal Bill" (this was a discussion, not of a bill introduced into congress by Senator Aldrich, but how a dealer had made Aldrich pay \$18 a ton to warm his private residence, Warwick Neck Castle), and "Where the Bachelor Has a Chance."

If the managing editors of these papers had followed the same policy that they do in a sensational murder case, the moment the scarcity of coal and exorbitant prices began to attract attention they would have set the reportorial staff at work to get the facts. Assignments of reporters would have been so made that one would have been ordered to search every place where coal was stored and to count unloaded coal cars on the sidings in and near the cities. Their special correspondents in the various towns and cities would have been ordered to do likewise. The amount of coal thus held back from market could have been known to the people within twenty-four hours. The names of the firms and the men who owned the coal and were thus plotting to rob the people and cause suffering and death could have been made public. If in any of the suffering communities there were public officers not elected by the corporations, and there are always a few such places, prosecutions could have been immediately begun. But the dailies did no such service for the people. They passed the matter by until the suffering became so intense that the rights of property were no longer regarded and people in many places were confiscating coal, sometimes whole trainloads at once. In other places magistrates announced that they would not find guilty or imprison any person for stealing coal. In one place all persons serving sentences for stealing coal were released in a body. Then, when concealment was no longer possible, a very little effort on the part of the dailies showed that there was more coal in Chicago and near vicinity than was ever before known to be at this time of year. In one little town not 20 miles from the heart of Chicago one railroad had sidetracked 3,000 cars loaded with coal for so long a time that they were covered deep with snow. At another place coal had been dumped on each side of a railroad track as high as it could be conveniently piled for nearly a mile. At that they stopped.

Now all this information could have been published weeks ago, and would have been published if the dailies had not been under the influence of corporations, trusts and predatory hordes, organized under the shelter of the republican party, for the purpose of preying upon mankind, and furnishing money with which to buy elections.

The editorial writers on the dailies could have brought this predatory raid to a sudden end without even engaging the news gathering corps attached to each daily if they had so wished. A few sharp editorials along the line of those that were printed in The Independent, based on facts known to all men, would have brought the raid to a sudden ending. But in this crisis, the dailies, as always, refused to serve the people. They allowed the predatory hordes to sweep down upon the poor and rob and destroy without any rebuke from them.

Send for a book of 1904 recruiting coupons. Help to extend the circulation and influence of The Independent in your locality. You'll find it easy to sell them at the exceptionally low rate we are making for subscriptions to run until after the next presidential election. Do your part in helping to restore a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

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CANNOT REASON

There are some statements in Mr. Hand's letter to The Independent last week concerning the stay-at-home vote in Buffalo county that are perfectly astounding. Mr. Hand is on the ground and ought to know better the conditions there than the editor of this paper, but when he says: "You cannot reason with these voters," that is, men who left the republican party to join the populists, he makes a statement that argues sadly for the future of this republic. The men who will not vote for a man like W. H. Thompson, honored and loved by all who know him, who has lived a life of uprightness and integrity, who has devoted thousands of dollars of his earnings and years of his time to the cause of reform, who has always been found on the right side of every public question, running on a platform identical with the populist platform, simply because he was called a democrat, are not the men through whose action good government will ever be obtained. Mr. Hand's assertion that these men, formerly republicans, will not vote for a man unless he bears the populist brand, no matter what his character, ability and earnestness in reform work may be, is to place them alongside of the republican mullet heads, who know nothing but to vote 'er straight.

Any man who knows anything, knows that if the republican party with its predatory hordes of tariff grafters and trust pirates is ever overthrown, then all opposed to it must vote for the same candidates.

This writer will never forget the time when W. H. Thompson came into the populist headquarters in the crisis of what proved to be a successful campaign, and finding the committee without even a postage stamp or money to buy one, sat down and wrote his check for \$1,000, by the use of which the campaign was carried to a successful issue. A populist was at the head of the ticket that year and seven-eighths of the state candidates were populists. A man who won't vote for a man of that kind, and who will not listen to reason, cannot be a populist. He is simply a partisan lunatic and any reform movement would be better off without him.

But The Independent thinks Mr. Hand is mistaken in his diagnosis. The reason these men did not go to the polls and vote was because they did not have the information that ought to have been furnished. Their homes are flooded with the misrepresentations and lies of the cheap republican papers. The party has taken no action towards supplying correct information to the mass of its voters. The Independent has only 15,000 or 16,000 circulation in the state. How many readers of this paper stayed at home? How many of them are such partisan lunatics that they would rather see the trusts and corporations in power than to vote for any man who was not branded populist?

We have elected a good many men to office bearing the populist brand, who have deserted us. Some have gone back to the republican party and some have gone over to the democrats while holding offices to which they were elected as populists. Just because a man bears the populist name does not insure that he will be a better reformer than if he is known by some other name. We have had much sad experience along that line. It is certainly enough to convince any man who can reason at all, that a name is not the essential thing. There must be something more than that. To paraphrase Burns—
"The name is but the guinea's stamp,
A man's a man for a' that."

Two or three more generals are left who may become commanders-in-chief in the Philippines. They are welcome to all the glory they can get out of it.