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**The Nebraska Independent,**  
Lincoln, Neb.

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Trust management of railroads has proved entirely inefficient as regards profits as well as in service to the public. Let us try some other way.

The dailies have not yet found out that there is a car famine, that the elevators are full and the doors closed. Be patient with them. In a month or two they will hear about it.

The house passed the bill donating \$3,000,000 to relieve the distress in the Philippines. Beveridge ought now to arise in the senate and display another nugget of gold found in a Philippine creek.

The editor of The Independent wishes to say that the article by Perry D. Plain, of Atwater, Ill., in last week's Independent, is the best thing that he has ever read on "taxing land values."

The recent frightful wrecks on the Central of New Jersey and the Southern Pacific have given rise to a demand for two engineers on duty at the same time—which will never be under private ownership.

The three ambassadors of the English, German and French nations at Washington have American wives. To get an American wife seems to be a great point for all the European ambassadors to this country.

The scandalous scenes in Delaware and Colorado over the election of a United States senator tend to intensify the demand for election direct by the people. Henry Loomis Nelson has a strong article in the Century on arrogance in the senate. And The Outlook favors direct election.

A farmer with 4,000 bushels of corn that is not very sound, piled up on the ground, spring rains not far in the future, the elevators closed and no cars to be had, does not think as well of the beneficence of the trusts and railroad mergers as he did last fall when he voted the republican ticket.

George Kennan's history of "Gas" Addicks "Holding Up a State," now running in The Outlook, is a tale of the most brazen and wholesale debauchery of voters ever practised anywhere. Addicks spent about \$130,000 buying about 8,000 of the 13,000 votes cast for the union republican legislators.

Senator Hanna turned a trick the other day which he thinks will go far toward securing him the vote for the nomination for president of every negro delegate in the republican national convention. He introduced a bill to give every ex-slave now living a bounty of from \$300 to \$500 and a pension from \$8 to \$12 a month.

### SOME PLAIN TALK

The socialists and mid-road pops are forever declaring that "the leaders" forced the populist party into fusion, which is simply saying that populists are a lot of political sheep that follow a bell weather and have no minds of their own, which is an infernal slander. Populist conventions follow no leader. When a proposition is presented, the delegates make up their minds and vote for what they each think is for the best. The Independent treats with contempt all such assertions. There was never a body of men united for political action less inclined to follow leaders than the voters of the populist party. Every man who knows anything about them at all, knows that is true. Clem Deaver tried to lead and less than a thousand followed him. Jo Parker tried to lead and his following was so insignificant that his effort was ridiculous. Several others tried it and they found out that populists were not led. The rank and file marked out a policy by their votes in conventions and the would-be leaders were commanded to obey orders. Senators Harris, Heitfeld and Patterson tried to "lead" them into the democratic party. The senators went, but the populists did not follow. One can argue with a populist, and he will listen, but when any one undertakes to lead him, he will buck worse than an Arizona mustang.

Mr. Wayland's assertion that "the leaders sold out the movement to the democrats in '96" is a premeditated slander. He knows that the question whether the party should endorse Bryan or not was fought out in the St. Louis convention and decided there. It was decided by the regularly elected delegates, who were neither bribed, coerced or intimidated. They were as noble a body of men as ever assembled in a national convention, and any man who says that they sold their votes is more disreputable than the common street liar. It is on the same plane as the charge that this paper has been corruptly sustained by the democrats because it was necessary to them. It is true that many thousand democrats subscribe for The Independent because in advocating populism it advocates true Jeffersonian democracy. The insinuation that charge carries is of the same character that the two factions of socialists constantly hurl at each other. It exhibits the same sort of logic that Mr. Wayland does when he says: "The Independent during the last six years has exhausted its vitality in attacks on mid-road populists and socialists." If going from a circulation of a few hundred far up in the thousands in six years is "exhausting its vitality," then Mr. Wayland's remark would have some sense in it. During that time its circulation has spread into every state and territory of the union and the constant increase in its circulation which is still going on at a more rapid rate than ever, is a very queer indication of exhausted vitality.

There was never a more silly lie published than that Mr. Bryan stated that he and the populist leaders had arranged "months before" what the populist party would do. Mr. Bryan must have known months before that he was going to beat Dave Hill and be nominated at Chicago, for only fifteen days intervened between his nomination at Chicago and the populist endorsement of his candidacy at St. Louis. If The Appeal is going into the business of publishing lies it would better give a little more care to their preparation.

In conclusion, the editor of The Independent has never even received a suggestion from a democrat in regard to the policy of this paper, while every sort of an inducement has been offered him by republicans to change its policy or leave it.

Hayden Bros., proprietors of the

largest and most complete general store in Omaha, are offering some excellent bargains in their advertisement on page nine. Send them an order by mail and mention The Independent. You'll get your money's worth of good goods.

### HENRY GORGE SOCIALISM

Undoubtedly the followers of Karl Marx, the followers of Henry George, and Bolton Hall have jointly and severally a good cause of action against one "K. B.," a would-be reviewer of books who does space-writing for The Reader.

Bolton Hall is an earnest student of taxation and a firm believer in the Georgian philosophy. He has recently written a book, "The Game of Life" (A. Wessels Co., N. Y., \$1.), in which the single tax is presented in parable, fable, and allegory. "K. B." tells The Reader what he thinks about it.

"He sees," says "K. B.," "that the world is awry. He wishes to go out and raise turnips and potatoes on the first vacant lot he comes to, and is grieved that the owner chases him off with a shot-gun. . . . Taken as a whole, Mr. Hall's book is socialism pure and simple."

And there is where "K. B." puts his foot into it. Except that both single taxers and socialists declare against the private ownership of land, they have nothing in common. The single taxer would have private ownership of all man-made goods—the greatest individualism possible; but land could not be subject to private ownership any more than the sea, or air, or light. The socialist would not permit the private ownership of any of the means of production or distribution. The land, machines, and all goods not finished ready for consumption would belong to the collectivity.

To call Mr. Hall's book "socialism" is a double-dyed insult to Karl Marx, Henry George, and the many thousands of both socialists and single taxers. There ought to be a literary guillotine for such as "K. B.," who pretend to criticize books on political economy without even a smattering of knowledge of the subject under discussion.

### LAND MONOPOLY

Mr. Quinby, like all other single taxers, is very confident there is a land monopoly. Well, there is—according to his way of defining the term; but his definition of monopoly is synonymous with ownership. If exclusive individual ownership of a thing is monopoly, then we are all monopolists both in desire and in fact.

But where's the use of using a new term for an old idea? Why not rail against land ownership—and let it go at that? When The Independent speaks of monopoly it intends its readers to understand it to mean that substantial unity of ownership or control over property which enables the owners or those in control to dictate the price of that property or the services which may be rendered in connection with it. There is no unity among owners of farm land which enables them to dictate the price of land or the price of the products grown upon it. There would be no such unity among owners of mineral lands—say coal fields—were it not for the monopoly in transportation.

There has not much been said about the sugar trust lately, so that piratical institution concluded that it would give an illustration of its power just to let the people know that it was in the swim as well as the coal trust. One day last week it closed down a number of its refineries and threw 6,500 men out of work. The reason that it gave was that there was an overproduction of sugar. It would be interesting to know what those 30,000 people, the workers and their families, think of a "prosperity" that can be brought to a sudden stop by the order of a trust at any time.

### ON WITH THE DANCE

The Independent wishes to say to a certain irate republican that when it said that the coal trust had caused a greater number of deaths and more suffering than "Hell Roaring" Jake Smith did in the Philippines, it was telling the simple truth. The Chicago board of health issued a bulletin January 31, in which it said that the "returns of mortality for the month of January, 1903, show an increase of 10.4 per cent (or 344) in the actual number of deaths from all causes and at all ages, and of 11.4 per cent in proportion to population, as compared with January, 1902, when coal was abundant at one-half the price or even less than that it now commands—where it can be obtained at all. These two facts are cited together because, in the judgment of the health department the latter is the principal, if not the sole cause, of the former. A large proportion of the excess deaths is, as was stated in the bulletin of January 10, due to cold and exposure caused by the coal famine and which at that date had affected the health of fully 10 per cent, or nearly 200,000 of the population of the city. Had any other one cause so seriously menaced the public health and welfare a grave emergency would have been declared to exist, authorizing the exercising of the plenary power of the municipality under the warrant and law of 'overruling necessity.' Disregarding for the present the important fact that all manufacturers and power-producing plants in the city must pay double rates for all coal contracted for at the present time, and the serious increase of cost that must eventually follow to the consumer of substantially all products, the immediate danger to health and to life constitutes an emergency which needs no further argument or demonstration. The head of a family earning \$40, \$50, \$60 or \$75 a month can scarcely buy enough fuel to cook his food, much less keep his family warm, and it is a serious matter, too, for all householders, with the price of fuel doubled and in some instances quadrupled. A contemplation of the facts must make the most loyal supporter of private ownership of trusts and private ownership of public service corporations think a second time, because in midwinter, so far as coal is concerned, many are dangerously near the question of the right to live, and this right produces an emergency that is higher than all other rights and all law."

The Independent has constantly been telling its readers that the failure of the republican party to suppress the trusts, would end in an overthrow of society as it has heretofore existed. To destroy competition and place the great industries in the hands of a few monopolists is as great a revolution as has ever occurred in the history of the world. It is entering upon a new order as radical as was ever advocated by a follower of Marx. The result so far is death and suffering equal to that of a great war.

The present administration is responsible for this condition of things. Its refusal to enforce the laws has brought this condition about. If a case had been brought against the coal trust in the beginning of the strike, the present condition would not exist.

The suffering from the coal trust is only part of the evil and it soon may develop that it is only a small part. The merging of the railroads, forming railroad trusts, destroying competition in transportation, has resulted in such inefficiency that orders were issued last week by a large number of roads not to receive anything but perishable freight, live stock and coal. No such condition ever existed in the United States before, but it exists now after all the facilities for transportation have been greatly increased. More locomotives and more cars are at the disposal of traffic managers than there ever were be-