

## The Nebraska Independent

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### KARL MARX EDITION

Pursuant to our promise made in The Independent of April 9, we now announce that the issue of July 23, 1903, will be known as the Karl Marx Edition and devoted to the presentation of socialism exactly under the same conditions as surrounded the issue of our Henry George Edition. That is to say, the entire issue will be given over to the socialists. They will write the articles and be in fact the editors. All that the present editors of The Independent will do will be to wade through the manuscripts, look after mere typographical errors, read the proofs, and fill every available inch of space—aside from the advertising—with socialist doctrine as the socialists themselves understand it.

As was said in our issue of April 9, "The Independent is not inclined to adopt the modern fad of issuing a multitude of 'special editions'," and only after serious consideration was the Henry George Edition undertaken. The undoubted success of that gives us encouragement to take up the Karl Marx Edition with a will and make it as great or even greater a success—depending, of course, upon the socialists themselves.

The Independent at the outset desires no misunderstandings regarding either of these editions. It is a populist paper and has taught populist doctrines for more than fourteen years. It recognizes in both socialists and single taxers men inspired with strong desires for the enlightenment and betterment of the human race. Jefferson democrats, Lincoln republicans, Karl Marx socialists, Henry George single taxers, and Thomas Watson populists can all agree that "equal rights to all—special privileges to none" is what they are all striving for. Their disagreements are over the best methods of securing the equal rights and abolishing the special privileges.

So while The Independent stands editorially as a champion of the methods proposed by the populist national platforms, it has never yet refused its columns to an earnest man who was trying to reach the same goal by a different route. And these two special editions are doing in a larger way nothing more than The Independent has done right along.

What shall be told to Independent readers in the Karl Marx Edition is left wholly to the socialists, but The Independent believes some light on a few points would be of great benefit to its readers in the way of giving them a clearer idea of the socialist belief. The theory of "surplus value," the class struggle, and the materialistic conception of history, of course, will cover the fundamentals; but a little touch of the Utopian would be valuable—not a bald statement of what will happen "under socialism"

(for that no man knows), but rather along the lines of practical suggestion as to how things might be done. For example, the objection against "directed supply" as opposed to the haphazard undirected or "unconscious supply;" where to draw the line between consumption goods and capital; how to equalize the inequalities in location of homes, etc., are simply suggestive.

Sample copies of the Karl Marx Edition will be mailed to lists of addresses at the low price of \$1 per hundred, either singly or all to one address. If ten thousand are taken, the paper will be enlarged to 24 pages, and an addition 8 pages for every additional ten thousand. This barely covers cost of producing the paper.

The democratic state central committee is called to meet at the Lincoln hotel, Lincoln, Neb., June 23, 1903, at 2 o'clock p. m. to fix time and place for holding a state convention.

### SECRETARY EDGERTON

James Arthur Edgerton, secretary of the people's party national committee, called on The Independent Monday and spent a few hours talking over the political situation with a number of leading populists who gathered there to meet him.

Mr. Edgerton is no stranger to Independent readers. Many of his poems have found a place in our columns and in the hearts of those who read them. For a number of years he has been a member of the editorial staff of the Rocky Mountain News, Denver, in which paper his "Side Veins" has scored a decided success. He was on his way to Denver, returning from the press writers' meeting at Baltimore, and took occasion to stop off a few hours here—his former home. In fact, we have not yet relinquished our right to claim Mr. Edgerton as a Nebraska poet—and populist.

Speaking of the mission of the people's party, Secretary Edgerton takes much the same view as that entertained by The Independent: that there is room for a radical reform party inspired by faith in principles of justice rather than held together simply by spoils of office. He believes that the socialist agitation will in the end help rather than hinder the growth of the people's party, because, in his judgment, the co-operative commonwealth will not come as the result of a single capture of government machinery at the polls, but rather a step at a time, through public ownership of railroads, telegraphs, etc., taking in coal mines, etc., later as the necessities compel action. He believes the socialist cry of class consciousness is dangerous, as inviting class hatred rather than accomplishing what conscientious socialists wish it to accomplish.

Mr. Edgerton is inclined to believe that the time is not yet ripe for the populists to accomplish much more than to keep their fires burning and ready for action. The next epoch, he believes, will be marked by a general uprising all over the United States similar to the movement in the early nineties in Kansas and Nebraska. This epoch will be ushered in by some thought-producing incident. For example, a general railroad strike in the next few years would set the whole United States afire for public ownership. The tinder is dry now—a spark would ignite it. When this comes the people's party, if kept in working trim, will win in a whirlwind of enthusiasm.

He considers a split in the democratic party next year inevitable, but is inclined to believe that William Randolph Hearst will in great measure be the real disturbing factor, because Hearst is the moving spirit among those democrats who are socialistically inclined—men who want public ownership and the like, but are not "class conscious" socialists. He regards it as almost certain that the

## Good Clothing for Boys.

Clothes that you find in the clothing stores of the good class are clothes that are built to wear. They're good clothes made out of good substantial materials well put together. You'll seldom find a good clothing store that handles clothes in which the wear is sacrificed for the sake of show. A good looking suit for a child can be made of handsome cloth that's poor, trimmed with shoddy silks and satins, cotton ribbons and potato buttons. They won't wear. Clothes that are made for us are made to wear while they last, and last while they wear. You'll find no shoddy about a "Nebraska" boy's suit. In calling your attention to our boy's suits, we suggest looking on page 14 of our spring and summer catalog. We want to impress upon you one point—*wear*. These suits are marked to sell for \$2, and sell for a great deal more by your home clothier.....

## Nebraska Clothing Co

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democratic convention will avoid taking these steps toward socialism—and hence, a split seems certain.

Secretary Edgerton expressed pleasure because of the work being done by The Independent toward brushing up the populist organization and promised at an early date to prepare an article for publication covering the whole ground as he views it. When this comes The Independent will issue a special edition of probably 20,000 additional copies and place in the hands of populists who need waking up.

In the meantime The Independent is hearing from the populist national committeemen and others regarding the party's status in the several states. Let us hear from populists everywhere. Out of the counsel of many comes wisdom. Make The Independent a meeting place for the first preliminary conference—its columns are open.

Socialists have the opportunity to edit the Karl Marx Edition of The Independent (July 23, 1903) just as the single taxers did the Henry George Edition.

### FOLLOWS THE FLAG

Justice Harlan's dissenting opinion in the Hawaiian manslaughter case (Hawaii vs. Osaki Maukichi) contains the following strong arraignment of our present anomalous position, grown out of the Philippine muddle:

"The opinion of the court," he continued, "would mean that the United States may acquire territory by cession, conquest or treaty and that congress may exercise sovereignty dominion over it, outside of and in violation of the constitution and under regulations that could not be applied to the organized territories of the United States and their inhabitants. It would mean that, under the influence and guidance of commercialism and the supposed necessities of trade this country had left the old ways of the fathers, as defined by written constitutions, and entered a new way, in following which the American people will lose sight of become indifferent to these principles which had been supposed to be essential to real liberty. It would mean that if this people do not retrace their steps, if the principles now announced should become firmly established, the time may not be far distant, when, under the exactions of trade and commerce,

and to gratify an ambition to become the greatest political power in all the earth, the United States will acquire territories in every direction, which are inhabited by human beings over which territories to be called 'dependencies' we will exercise absolute dominion, and where inhabitants will be regarded as 'subjects' to be controlled as congress may see fit, not as the constitution requires, nor as the people governed may wish. Thus will be engrafted upon our republican institutions, dominated by the supreme law of a written constitution, a colonial system entirely foreign to the genius of our government and abhorrent to the principles that underlie and pervade the constitution. I stand by the doctrine that the constitution is the supreme law in every territory, as soon as it comes under the sovereign dominion of the United States for purposes of civil administration and whose inhabitants are under its entire authority and jurisdiction."

The class struggle—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

### ANOTHER CORPORATION VICTORY

The courts are rapidly forcing public ownership of franchised utilities upon the American people. Philadelphia undertook to compel the change from overhead wires to conduits by means of a heavy tax. The A. & P. telegraph company—really the Western Union—went into court to test the law, but was beaten until the United States supreme court was reached.

Justice Brewer said that there was no question as to the right of the municipality to legislate for a tax of this character, but it did not follow from this fact that a municipality is not subject to any restraint in such charges. In this case, he said, the cost of the maintenance of the telegraph lines was less than one-half the charge made by the city for supervision alone and he added that the testimony in the case indicated that the city had undertaken by the imposition of an unreasonable tax to force the telegraph company to put its wires under ground. "We do not say," he said, "that a city has not by virtue of its police powers authority, directly to compel the removal of wires from poles to conduits, but it may be questionable whether a city can seek the same results by an excessive and unreasonable charge upon overhead wires."