

Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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The German Savings bank of Des Moines, Ia., has failed.

A theater has been built in New York with two auditoriums; that is people look onto the stage from both sides.

An order of foreclosure against the U. P. railroad has been handed down by Judge Sanborn of the United States court.

It is said that Senator Wolcott is not entirely satisfied with his visit to England in the interest of international bimetalism.

The Silver Knight recounts 58 failures for the last week. The "Advance Agent's" show has evidently been stranded on the road.

The Fullerton Post of January 15 has a very handsome souvenir edition. It has a notice of both the living and the dead, as it contains a sketch of George D. Meiklejohn.

In another column we reproduce an article from the Chicago Dispatch concerning Senator Allen and his exposure of the frauds used in electing McKinley. The Dispatch, which is the leading free silver paper outside of the New York Journal, pronounces Allen the leader of the free silver forces in the United States senate.

THE INDEPENDENT acknowledges receipt of a copy of the proceedings of the thirtieth session of the National Grange, held at Washington, D. C., in November of last year. The grange is absolutely a non-partisan organization, but it nevertheless has done a great work in educating the people along political lines.

Lyman J. Gage, president of the First National bank of Chicago is said to be slated for secretary of the treasury. He is thoroughly identified with the banks, having been president of their national association; and is a goldbug through and through. With Sherman and Gage at the head of the cabinet, there can be no question about the attitude of the McKinley administration on the money question.

Col. W. A. Harris, who succeeds Senator Peffer of Kansas, is one of the solidest and best men in that state. He is a farmer, a cultured gentleman, a forcible speaker, a man of absolute honesty and as immovable as a rock. THE INDEPENDENT has never had any stones to throw at Senator Peffer. It believes him immeasurably above the men who have tried to belittle him; but it also believes that Harris will be able to do more effective work than Peffer ever could do.

A VALUABLE REPORT.

"The Fifth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics of Nebraska" has just been received. It is unquestionably the most valuable report ever published by this department in the history of the state.

Perhaps the most important feature of the work is a township description of each county. This is evidently intended to be an unbiased statement of the value of every portion of Nebraska from an agricultural standpoint. This feature is especially valuable to prospective settlers and real estate dealers.

The articles on irrigation, the beet sugar industry, alfalfa, the dairy, co-operation, etc., are also valuable.

A number of tables are given showing the wages, and conditions of the various kinds of laborers in the state, the average yield per acre and condition of crops, reports of mortgage indebtedness, reports of manufactures, etc.

Two chapters are devoted to the condition of laborers in the United States and labor unions.

One of the most interesting sections of the book is the chapter on the relation of the governments of the world to the railroads; showing by actual statistics that a great majority of governments own all, or a part, of their railroads.

A number of amendments are proposed to the law creating the bureau, the most important of which are, first, to make the bureau an agency to gather accurate crop statistics and statistics on the value of yearly productions of all kinds. Second, to make the bureau a free employment office for the entire state. These two additions could be made with no additional cost and would greatly enlarge the Bureau's field of usefulness.

Ripans Tabules cure indigestion.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

The populists of the United States who favored a union of reform forces and who advocated making the fight on the silver issue in the last campaign, contended that silver would pry an entering wedge for all the reforms of the people party and that while acting conjointly with the other silver forces, we would gradually impregnate them with our own ideas and principles.

Time has proven the wisdom of these predictions. Today the reform sentiment of the country is turning to the people party platform in its entirety. The attitude of the railway corporations in the late campaign has opened the eyes of the free silver men to the desirability of government ownership of railroads; the effort of the banks to retire the greenbacks has shown the necessity of direct legislation.

The manly attitude of the populists in their unswerving and magnificent support of Mr. Bryan, while in giving it they were going outside of their own party and laying aside their dearest principles, this act of unselfish patriotism has endeared them to the entire free silver army, has brought their men and ideas into favor and will certainly make them the leaders in the great battle of 1900.

Now for the proofs. They are all from sources outside the people party and therefore without special bias in our direction.

The first is from the Philadelphia American, a free silver republican paper that up to last fall would hear to nothing but free silver and protection. That a change has come over the spirit of its dreams may be seen from the following extracts from a recent editorial:

"We must not content ourselves with striving to combat the upbuilding of a moneyed oligarchy by working for free silver coinage alone. We must not permit that oligarchy to fasten its grasp upon our people through gaining a monopoly of the issue of our paper currency, or a monopoly of our railroads, or of our telegraphs. The surrender by the government to the banks of the sovereign power to issue and control the volume of our paper currency is urged upon us with greater or lesser vehemence, the control of our railroads and telegraph lines in the interest of speculative cliques is becoming more and more marked. The banks on the one hand and the railroads on the other, are being turned into engines of speculation. This tendency must be combated. The banks and the railroads must be run for the purposes for which they were created, namely to facilitate the distribution of wealth and lessen the cost of distribution, not to enable those who control the banks and railroads to levy a tribute on such distribution."

The American, to sum up, announces its platform as follows:

1st. Free coinage of silver.

2d. The issue of paper money, and the regulation of the volume thereof by the national government.

3d. Government ownership of railroads and telegraphs."

So much for the leading silver republican paper of America. The other two quotations are from democratic sources.

Hon. David Overmeyer, of Kansas, is second to Mr. Bryan, probably the leading free silver democrat west of the Missouri river. The following sentences are taken from a recent letter of Mr. Overmeyer's:

"Why not boldly and openly announce the well settled and familiar legal doctrine that railroads are public highways and why longer shrink from applying to them the logical rule which obtains in all such cases, viz. That so long as they remain public highways the title to their roadbeds and rights of way should be in the public, with such degree of control in all other respects as the law making power may deem expedient?"

"In fine, why not have society control property instead of having property rule society. These great issues are upon us. We cannot escape them. The man who falters is lost. The party that temporizes will perish. The conditions are present. The hour has come."

The third quotation is not quite so outspoken, but it points in the same direction. It is from the Chicago Dispatch, the leading free silver democratic paper of the west.

The quotation occurs at the end of an editorial defense of socialism. The Dispatch does not openly espouse socialism, but merely answers some of the lies of the goldbug press. It then adds the following significant paragraph:

"The Dispatch is democratic. It believes that all government rests in the consent of the governed, and that the voice of the people is the voice of God. It rejects nothing of worth because it is new, and it clings to no faith simply because it is old. It believes in the people of today and that they are capable of solving and will solve the problem of government. It is all very well to respect the fathers, but they were human, and if we cannot improve on their work after more than a hundred years, we are decadents. If we are not progressive we will be reactionary. Inertia is impossible."

THE NEW SENATE.

Indications now are that the next senate will be for silver. At least forty-seven votes may be safely counted against any further legislation in favor of the gold standard. It is thought that even a larger number will oppose the retirement of the greenbacks.

The personnel of the new senate will be considerably changed. The machine boss and president of the United States Express company, Thomas C. Platt, succeeds David B. Hill of New York. In Pennsylvania the eminent bimetalist

and statesman, Cameron, is succeeded by an unknown Philadelphia lawyer dictated by boss Quay. In Ohio the corporation democrat, Brice, is succeeded by Ex-Governor Foraker. When Sherman goes into the cabinet Mark Hanna will probably slip into the place thus left vacant in the senate. In Indiana the eloquent Vorhees will be succeeded by the corporation lawyer, Fairbanks, who was temporary chairman of the last republican national convention. In Illinois the prince of the gold-bug democrats, John M. Palmer, will be succeeded by Ex-Congressman Wm. E. Mason, a Chicago lawyer. In Wisconsin another gold bug democrat is replaced by a republican—Ex-Senator John C. Spooner.

It will be seen that four gold bug democratic senators are retired—Hill, Palmer, Brice and Vilas. To these may be added Vorhees, who, while claiming to be a silver man, betrayed the people in the repeal of the Sherman silver law. The retirement of these men will almost eliminate the gold democrats from the body.

Among the free silver democrats there will be few changes. Three new men, one from South Carolina, another from Georgia and another from Alabama, have been elected. They are all ardent silver men. Jones of Arkansas and Vest of Missouri succeed themselves.

There will be a gain among the populists and independent silver men. Of the populists Allen, Butler and Stewart hold over. Peffer of Kansas is succeeded by Ex-Congressman W. A. Harris, one of the ablest and best informed men in the party. Jones of Nevada succeeds himself. Kyle of South Dakota will either succeed himself or be succeeded by another populist.

In Idaho the fight is between Dubois, independent silver, and a populist. In Washington it will be either an independent silver man or a populist. In Oregon it will be either Mitchell, silver republican, or a populist. In Utah a democrat will succeed Brown, rep. In Colorado Senator Teller was re-elected by a vote of 92 out of 98, all parties except McKinley republicans voting for him.

The total democratic vote in the senate will be 32. Of these at least 27 can be counted for silver. Of the populists and independent silver men there will be 13; and there are at least eight men who still class themselves as republicans who will vote for free silver.

The probability is that the silver strength of the next senate will be near 49 or 50, and it is quite certain that it will not fall below 47.

IS PINGREE A POPULIST.

Governor Pingree, of Michigan, has been talking again. This time he had something to say of the prosperity which was to follow its "Advance Agent," Mr. McKinley. This interview sounds a little strange, coming from a republican governor. Here is what he said:

"Prosperity? Fiddlesticks! There can be no prosperity so long as the country is at the mercy of the money-lenders. The social system is out of joint. We need a law against great fortunes. Men form combinations and put their hands into the pockets of the poor. They never take from those who have, but steal from those who have not. We need men willing to stand for equal rights, and we want men who braw for equal rights to take a hand at practicing equal rights. The public is being milked for the sake of the few, and the thing has got to stop before there can be any relief."

"Gold standard talk has had its day. There will never be another republican convention which will write that name in its platform. There will next time be a strong bimetallic platform, and this is what the people want. They will have learned by that time that prosperity does not necessarily come by the election of any one man to the presidency, and that prosperity cannot come until the laws are radically changed. Michigan would have gone for free silver, but the gold men scared the people to death with their calamity howling and the promises of prosperity whose sunshine is that of "Paradise Alley."

AN OPEN LETTER TO WM. MCKINLEY.

Three months have now elapsed, O McKinley, since you were elected president of the United States; and we are still in the soup. We have yearned for the good times you promised us, even as a tom-cat yearneth for his mate; and they came not. You said we would open the mills rather than the mints, O McKinley; but up to the present writing we have not succeeded in opening either—in fact we could not open much of anything—not even a jack-pot. We have longed for the business revival, O McKinley, but it hasn't come our way—not yet. It has not run over any of our acquaintances either, except the pawnbroker; although trade for bank receivers and assignees has seemed to pick up a little.

We have looked long and earnestly at the "Advance Agent of Prosperity," O McKinley, but where in thunder is his show?

We have waited for the 'return of confidence,' O McKinley, but when so many Illinois and Minnesota banks busted, he seemed to get shy. He never came back. How long, O how long, McKinley, must we continue to live on soup and promises?

Another "wave of prosperity," O McKinley, and we will indeed be submerged.

It is all we can do to hold our head above water now.

The good times are too much for us, O McKinley. The banks and factories collapse at sight of them, for very joy.

Those who prophesied to us in thy name, O McKinley, lied to us most shamefully. They worked us. They bamboozled us. They run a con game on us. They played us low-down.

We feel like we had been taken in, O McKinley; like we had been swiped on a green goods deal; like we had been angled for as a sucker.

And now you have named John Sherman, that assassin of silver, for secretary of state—to make room for Hanna in the senate; and have appointed the president of a national bank for secretary of the treasury. But still the good times come not.

Your promises were very rosy, O McKinley, but their fulfillment is as dead sea fruit, that turns to ashes in the grasp.

The people were in need, O McKinley, and you promised them bread; but you have given them a stone.

You were a false prophet, O McKinley; and you are condemned in the eyes of the people even now; for they love truth; and you pledged that you could not perform.

THOSE REMARKABLE ELECTION FIGURES.

The returns of the late election grow in interest every day. They are peculiar. They indicate that in some states more people voted than all the males of voting age, and this without taking into account the large number of ballots thrown out and the unaturalized foreigners. Evidently, dead men and mules voted in Ohio. It is usually counted that there is one voter for every five persons, but in Ohio, by these remarkable returns, there is one voter to less than four persons. Nearly as large a voting percentage is shown in a number of other states. We below give the states and number of persons to each voter. This is excluding the states in which there is woman suffrage:

Table with 2 columns: State and Ratio (e.g., California 4.16, Illinois 4.13, Iowa 3.84, Kansas 4.01, Ohio 3.92, Oregon 4.12, South Dakota 3.88)

These states were hot battle grounds and Hanna made his best efforts to carry all of them. He succeeded in all except South Dakota and Kansas.

Taking all the country, in the states carried for McKinley there is one voter for every 4.85 persons; while in those carried by Bryan there is one voter for every 7.73 persons. Evidently no padding in the latter states, at least.

But the remarkable part of this is the exceedingly heavy gain in some states over the vote of 1892. There is Ohio for instance; one would not suppose there had been a very great increase in the population in Ohio in the past four years of hard times; but the vote has increased 167,042, indicating an increase of population of at least three-quarters of a million.

Then take Illinois—increase in the vote of over 100,000; Indiana, increase of 83,000; Iowa, increase of 78,000; Kentucky, increase of over 100,000; Michigan, increase of 84,000; Minnesota, increase of 74,000; Missouri, increase of 130,000; etc., etc. These are all states where there were hot contests. These gains came generally just where they were needed.

Another interesting feature of the result is that Bryan, though defeated, received 960,000 more votes than Cleveland in 1892, who was elected by a landslide.

Cleveland carried Illinois in 1892 by 26,993. Bryan received 38,242 more votes than Cleveland, and yet McKinley's plurality was 143,607.

Cleveland carried Indiana by 7,125. Bryan received 43,001 more votes than Cleveland, and yet McKinley carried Indiana by 17,978.

Harrison carried Ohio by 1,072. Bryan received 70,708 more votes than Harrison, and yet McKinley carried Ohio by 51,950.

Harrison carried Minnesota by 21,903. Bryan received 16,912 more votes than Harrison, and yet McKinley carried Minnesota by 53,768.

Cleveland carried Kentucky by 40,020. Bryan received 42,429 more votes than Cleveland, and yet McKinley carried Kentucky by 281.

Cleveland carried California by 144. Bryan received 26,473 more votes than Cleveland, and yet McKinley carried California by 1,822.

It is a remarkable fact that in some of the states named in the foregoing the number of voters in 1896 exceeded the total number of males of voting age returned by the census of 1890, while in other states the number of voters very nearly equaled the number of males of voting age as returned by the census.

Table with 3 columns: State, Total vote, Males of voting age (e.g., Ohio 1,017,341, 1,016,464; Indiana 637,255, 595,066; Illinois 1,090,177, 1,072,663; Iowa 521,550, 520,553; West Virginia 301,928, 181,400; Wisconsin 447,190, 461,722; Minnesota 341,695, 376,036; Michigan 544,325, 617,445; Kentucky 445,856, 450,792; Missouri 674,022, 705,718)

These are amazing figures. It must be remembered that the "males of voting age" in the census returns include un-

naturalized persons. A vote of such magnitude in ratio to males of voting age was never before seen in this country. There is a suspicion that in some precincts boys of from 18 years up were permitted to vote. Increase in population since 1890 is not sufficient to account for the increase of vote. The total vote figures given above do not include a large number of defective ballots thrown out by the election boards.

The following figures show the number of votes in 1896 and the number of males of voting age, according to the census of 1890, respectively in states where there was no special demand for votes: Maine, votes, 118,364; males, 201,241; Massachusetts, votes, 401,548; males, 665,009; Connecticut, votes, 174,383; males, 224,092; New York, votes, 1,424,221; males, 1,769,649; Pennsylvania, votes, 1,194,278; males, 1,461,869.

Another interesting feature of the late returns is the evident part played in them by the foreign vote. Mr. Walter Willman, the well-known correspondent, after a thorough investigation of this matter, makes the following statement:

"The enormous gains made by the republicans in the cities, where the foreign population is largely centered, shows conclusively that the plurality for McKinley was due wholly to the foreign vote.

Upon painstaking analysis of all the conditions I have concluded that the 13,940,000 voters of last November were divided as follows: Native white American..... 7,500,000 Native colored American..... 450,000 Foreign American..... 5,990,000

Total vote..... 13,940,000

Analyzing the personal returns from personal investigation of the trend of the foreign vote made during the campaign, I conclude that McKinley's total vote was made up as follows: F'g'n born or of f'g'n family 3,610,000 Negroes..... 425,000 Native white American..... 3,075,000

Total..... 7,110,000

And that Bryan's vote was made up as follows: F'g'n born or of f'g'n family.. 2,325,000 Native white American..... 4,035,000

Total..... 6,360,000 While these figures are in the nature of things only approximate estimates, they are believed to be reasonable accurate. They show that 60 per cent of the foreign vote went to McKinley and 54 per cent of the native white American vote to Bryan."

SCISSORS DEPARTMENT.

"Thank God!" said the plutocrat, "Bryan sunk into oblivion." He sat down and wrote to his newspaper to open a tirade upon the man from Nebraska—Twentieth Century.

Paul Vandervoort seems to be trying to bring discord into the ranks of the populist and Democratic parties. He seems to think now that he must run both parties, or else sever them in twain. He starts out by calling the next annual meeting of the association at Memphis, Tenn., as far from the populist states as he could get it.—Public Journal (Hastings.)

The Norfolk Journal gives a list of thirty-three states, including most of the wealthy eastern and central states, each of which had more business failures in 1896 in proportion to the number engaged in business than Nebraska. Pretty good for a state that had just passed through the ordeal of a drouth.—Antelope Tribune.

Paul Vandervoort, president of the National Reform Press association, recently issued a call for a meeting of the association, to be held at Memphis, Tenn., February 22nd. The authority to call a meeting of the association is vested in the executive committee, but Mr. Vandervoort has proceeded on his own authority to call the meeting, and his purpose appears to be to reorganize the populist party at this meeting according to his own views. The intention of the association, as we understand it, is to discuss the interests of the reform press and better service to secure reform news, etc., but Vandervoort's intention appears to be to disregard the true object of the organization and to use it as a machine to reorganize the peoples party. The association should proceed at once to sit down on him, and sit down on him hard, as the populist party of Nebraska has done. He is not only a disgrace to the reform movement, but is a disgrace to any political association with which he affiliates.—York Democrat.

"Middle of the road" used to be an honorable appellation of populists, which signified singleness of purpose, not to be led astray by the blandishments of the other two parties. It was a measure of self-protection during the formative period, because the make up of the populist ranks came from the other two parties, and had not as yet been welded together in a well disciplined organization. But during the late struggle the gold bug imps stole the livery of the saints to serve the devil with. Not all of the "middle of the road" populists were so from mercenary purpose, they were honest, well meaning, but misguided men, but there were other "middle of the road fellows" that had been seen by Mark Hanna's agents, and done his bidding, and had not the mass of populist voters seen through the thin gauzy cloakings of these "middle of the roaders" great damage would have been effected to the cause by creating a division among the reform forces, exactly what the Hanacrats schemed. Even now the political atmosphere is so polluted with a new batch of "middle of the road" bushwhackers who have been hatched by the heat of disappointment at the hands of the present administration or legislature, and in many instances from their own personal unfitness and character. To appoint an applicant, even though it be merely an employee of the legislature, of notoriously bad habits, with even the most brilliant talents, would bring disgrace upon the appointing power. Roastings from such

sources, impelled by such unworthy motives are sweet incense to the right thinking voters of Nebraska, and republican organs who fill their columns with such vile screeds only make themselves ridiculous.—Wahoo New Era.

With a keen interest and relish we have watched every movement and action of T. E. Watson of Georgia since his advent into the reform party, and the result is we admire and respect him as a gentleman, a scholar and a politician. But why, oh, why, he places so much confidence in Paul Vandervoort is beyond our imagination to conceive.—Minden Courier.

The populist mayor of Portland, Oregon, sent the following caustic, but truthful reply to H. H. Hanna of Indianapolis, who urged him to send delegates to the monetary convention: "Nobody able to attend but bankers, and they are unsafe counsellors. Congress is the proper monetary convention."—Pueblo Reform Press.

Paul Vandervoort, president of the National Reform Press association, has issued a call for a meeting of the association, at Memphis, Tenn., February 22, 1897. A Rozelle, secretary-treasurer, is after him with a scalping knife, and accuses him of trying to side track the association. It is side-tracked already. Brother Rozelle. That became evident when it passed into the control of men like Vandervoort and Morgan. Success to the proposed new association to be formed at Kansas City on February 22.—Peoples Champion.

Gleanings from the Twentieth Century.

The new governor of New York, Frank S. Black, has received during the past few years something like \$50,000 in fees from the Standard Oil Company. He made himself very valuable to that corporation from the day of his admission to the New York bar. He has drafted many of its bills, and he has pushed them through the legislature in his capacity of lobbyist. When he went to congress he stood up for measures desired by the oil trust. When he was a struggling young lawyer he sought the business of the Standard concern gradually growing in favor. Now he has risen to be governor, and perhaps he will yet be named in connection with the presidency. If he had fought the great corporations and sought to abridge their privileges he would in all probability be a poorly paid lawyer today, eking out a subsistence in some decaying country town. His career is a proof of Mr. Bryan's contention that in order to get along our young men are compelled to curry favor with some mighty trust or railway combine. It is not worth while to serve the people. The corporations very soon single out a patriotic public servant and crush him with the aid of colossal campaign funds.

The great corporation of which Tom Platt, the coming senator, is president, has for a week or two been waging war against the people of the small New Jersey towns near New York. We refer to the United States Express Company. It has broken up the business of a few men who earned their living by acting as private express messengers. The corporation, aided, of course, by railroad, has forbidden passengers to carry bundles on the train. The passengers refused to obey the order, whereupon the corporations hired detectives and Pinkertons who clubbed everybody with a bundle. The surprising part of the situation is the determination of the passengers to appeal to the law. The judge before whom the first case will be tried was formerly the paid attorney of the express company.

The legislature that gave the railroad its privileges was elected at the expense of the corporations and has chosen the paid lobbyist of the railroad combine to lead the national senate. The president of the express company which hired detectives to club the passengers is the owner of the legislature of this state which will choose him to represent us in the senate. Consequently the notion of appealing to the law is about the most curious thing that has transpired since the outbreak of the trouble.

During the reign of Louis the XVI., immediately preceding the outbreak of the French Revolution, the government of France was an absolute despotism. But discussion was free. Every man was able to issue a pamphlet or other printed matter to give utterance to his views, and the attempt of the authorities at suppression was only laughed at. The result was the revolution. The despotism simply could not endure after the spread of ideas and the dissemination of sound doctrine regarding human liberty and the rights of men. The situation is parallel over here. We have a corporate and industrial despotism, but there is no hindrance, and in the nature of things there can be no hindrance, to the freedom of discussion and the spread of ideas. No despotism can stand that. The corporations are doomed as surely as the leaves that flutter in autumn. Every man can do his part. Discussion and ideas are the weapons.

Mr. Bryan is now supreme in the politics of Nebraska, much to the disgust of the paid attorney of the Pacific Railroad, John M. Thurston, now in the national senate. The legislature of Nebraska is very eager to show its allegiance to Bryan, for the feeling is universal throughout the west that he will be the victorious presidential candidate in 1900. There is a curious contrast in the condition of the victors and the vanquished in the late struggle. The victors are depressed, perplexed, and, oddly enough, not free from dread of their enemy. The vanquished are hopeful, full of energy, united and eager for another fray. The triumph purchased by the magnates is not turning out to be a great prize. Mr. Bryan's position is, consequently, one of commanding importance. His own Nebraska is behind him to a man. He is displaying rare ability in the management of his cause, while his magnetic personality and firm conviction of the truth he preaches seem to insure him a maintenance of his leadership. It is well known that nothing has vexed Hanna more than Bryan's triumph in his own state. The magnates spent countless thousands in their effort to capture Nebraska for McKinley. They were absolutely certain of carrying it, and their disgust at their failure is very great. They would have given up Indiana or Illinois for the sake of Nebraska.

Ripans Tabules for sour stomach.