

Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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The present session of congress has every indication of being a lengthy one.

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An opening for a lawyer to make several barrels of money and become famous—devise some means by which the railroads can avoid the recent decision of the supreme court.

The Nebraska legislature has made great savings in appropriations for the next two years. We will give the exact figures as soon as possible. It is our opinion that the total saving will reach nearly half a million.

The president and congress do not seem to understand that there are two ways to meet the deficiency in the treasury. Reduce expenses or increase the revenues. They devote all their attention to the latter method.

Senator Allen has introduced a good bill in the senate. It provides that anyone found around the capitol attempting to influence legislation shall be punished by a fine and imprisonment. It will probably not become a law at the present session.

The railroad companies are attempting to organize "bureaus of information and statistics" in the place of the freight and passenger associations recently dissolved on account of the supreme court decision. The same officers who were at the heads of the "association" will now be the heads of the new "bureaus." We shall see whether the court will tolerate such open and plain evasion of its decision. Common people would undoubtedly be punished for "contempt of court" under such circumstances. If the court was sincere in its decision it will see that it is enforced.

It is expected Senator Wolcott will be sent abroad to work up free-silver sentiment. He is welcome to the honor. Few Americans crave the distinction of being allotted the embarrassing task of cringing at Europe's feet in tearful supplication, beseeching despotism's permission to enact financial legislation. No man equal in intelligence to a by-potized ass would allow himself to be made such an object of mingled pity and scorn, even by his party president. The thought of a United States senator being enjoined, jostled and laughed at over in England is uncanny. If he should all at once "see himself as others see him" what smothering shame would sway his being. Oh, Wolcott, don't go; spare us, a once proud nation, this additional humiliation and disgrace at thy hands.

The deficiency in the revenues of the treasury of the United States has averaged about \$35,000,000 per year for the last three years. The new tariff bill will raise more than three times that amount each year. Of course it is a great blessing to the common people to pay these enormous revenues, pile up money in the treasury to be squandered by a reckless congress. The people would gladly endorse a bill to raise the necessary revenues to pay the current expenses of the government, but will not endorse one that goes to such extremes. Had the income tax not been declared unconstitutional there would have been no deficiency. The present congress is using the deficiency argument to plunder and rob the people in a greater degree than ever before. It did not take \$262,000,000 of bonds to pay a \$100,000,000 deficiency, everyone knows that. The bonds were issued for other purposes.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION.

One of the great and all absorbing political questions in state politics, one that will not down, is control of railroads. Ever since Nebraska became a state the people have been subject to exorbitant and excessive charges by the various roads doing business within the state. The demand for relief resulted in the legislature of 1887 creating a state board of transportation. The law was apparently drafted with the view of allowing the board only very limited power, but never-the-less, in 1898 an action was brought before the board for the reduction of freight rates that resulted in a cut of 33 1/2 per cent. by way of a compromise. As the executive state officers composing the board, since the enactment of the law up to the present time, have been better friends to the corporations than the people, but little has been accomplished except the adjustment of individual complaints and those relating to localities in which the general public had no interest. This failure to grant relief culminated in the maximum rate law, now being up in the federal supreme court. Governor Holcomb in his message to the present legislature, realizing that no determination of the case could be reached during the present session of the legislature, and that it would be unwise to repeal the law while under consideration by the court, advised that nothing be done in the matter of establishing rates, but that the legislature should extend the powers of the state board of transportation, quoting from his message, "if the board has not sufficient authority, as now constituted, to fulfill the objects of its creation, the law should be amended so as to give it more extended powers. The necessity for the maintenance of an office charged with the duties of enforcing all provisions of the law regulating railroad traffic in the state, is quite obvious."

In compliance with the recommendation, a conference was held in which the governor, a sub-committee of the house railroad committee, and the secretaries of the board took part, and certain amendments to the law were agreed upon. J. W. Edgerton, one of the secretaries, prepared the bill, and submitted the same to the governor and attorney-general for their approval after which it was introduced in the house by Mr. Zimmerman chairman of the railroad committee, as house roll 428.

The amendments are a substantial copy of the Texas law, and changes the present mode of procedure by making the order of the board final, unless reversed or modified in a direct action brought by the railroad company against the board.

As the law now stands, the company can be compelled to obey the order of the board only by an action brought against the company.

The amendment also provides that all actions brought against the board to modify or set aside the order of the board shall take precedence over all other cases pending in the court where such action is brought. It gives the company ten days in which to bring the action. The bill is fair and just, and only aims to make the roads act and not delay, and it is impossible to conceive what motive any member of the legislature, who possess a friend of the people, can have in opposing this measure.

We hope this measure may become a law, as in the event of the supreme court sustaining Brewer's decision, the state board will be the only means of relieving the people from the unjust freight rates, and they should be given all the power possible.

STATE WARRANTS.

At the beginning of Treasurer Meserve's term of office and at the opening of the present session of the legislature, the highest price that could be realized for state warrants ranging from \$50 to \$500 was 95 cents on the dollar. They very soon advanced to 96 cents, where the market remained firm for some time. Mr. Meserve, as fast as he could call in the funds belonging to the state, began paying its obligations and calling in the warrants longest outstanding. His energetic action in this direction has been very fruitful, and warrants at this time sell readily at 98 1/2 cents, and this in the face of the fact that his predecessor left a shortage of over half a million dollars. If Mr. Meserve had the money due from Mr. Bartley, it is practically certain that the state's warrants would be selling very nearly at par. It seems that eastern capitalists have not only as much but more confidence in a set of populist officials than they have in the gang of republican robbers that has infested the capital building for the last thirty years.

Mr. Meserve's position in handling the credit of the state is a most trying one, and the manner in which he has filled it merits the praise of all citizens interested in the welfare of the state.

PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Business men in Lincoln report a slight increase in business over last year. This is easily accounted for. Treasurer Meserve has paid out several hundred thousand dollars of money hoarded by republican rascals for personal gain, and to this extent has relieved the stringency in the money market. Confidence in our state finances has been restored by the late election in Nebraska, and our state warrants are nearing par and are now

eagerly sought for by home and foreign investors.

Such "revolutionary repudiation" has proved to be a good thing for the state. Suppose our taxpayers apply a little of the same kind of "revolution" to our city government to see how it works.

A recent Journal editorial asserts that there are others implicated with ex-Treasurer Bartley in looting the state treasury. If so, who are they? Are they leading republican politicians who staked their future on continued republican success in this state and have lost? Are these the gentlemen with whom Mr. Bartley has "deposited" the school funds of the state and on whom he cannot safely draw without endangering a panic?

In this connection it may not be improper to inquire whose names are signed to the notes held by the Maxey Cob estate? Who borrowed of the kind-hearted Maxy, failed to repay, and thus drove him to suicide? Are they the same chaps who are now seeking to perpetuate their rule after having robbed the people of the county and city of more than \$150,000? And it may be well for the people to ask where is the \$100,000 now reported as cash on hand in the city treasury. Does any part of that hundred thousand dollars consist of notes of leading campaigners on whom it would not be safe to draw without endangering loss to the city? If not, why is not that \$100,000 paid out on city obligations and thus interest saved to the city and discount on city warrants to laborers?

OVERPRODUCTION NOT THE CAUSE.

In an interview recently published Secretary of Agriculture Wilson states that overproduction is one of the chief causes of hard times. In other words if this year's crop were only half what it is the farmers would have twice as much money, and the country would be prosperous. There would not be so many hungry people. They would have less to eat but more money.

The INDEPENDENT would suggest as the proper cure for overproduction an increase in the amount of money with which to handle the enormous crops, and a proper regulation of railroad rates to place the products within the reach of the consumers. To cure the hard times, regulate the trusts and see that no man or set of men take more than a fair and legitimate income from the necessities furnished to the people. It is the machinations of the oil trust, sugar trust, coffee trust, tobacco trust, and the like, each taxing every farmer an exorbitant profit upon the products he must have, that makes it impossible for him to be prosperous. He is compelled to sell his products in a market open to the competition of the world. He must buy his supplies from trusts and combines among whom there is no competition, and where greed is unlimited. These are some of the causes of the depression in business.

H. W. Hardy, our candidate for city treasurer, was born in Wyoming county, New York, was brought up on a farm, was educated in the district school and Genesee college. He lived near where he was born for forty-five years. He held several offices of trust in town and county. He moved west to grow up with the country in 1868, stopping three years in Aurora, Ill., and in 1871 pushed on to Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1877 he was nominated by the republican party for mayor and was elected, though the party had been defeated for several years in succession, just previously. He was again nominated at the close of his first term and re-elected. His record as mayor is well remembered by every old citizen. He also served two terms on the school board. In both cases he found warrants selling at a discount and together, with the other official members succeeded in bringing them to a par. City warrants were paid off, \$4,000 put into the basement of the state university building which had been condemned as unsafe, and \$4,800 of surplus left in the city treasury, and all without increasing the taxes a single mill. His life for twenty-six years in the city of Lincoln speaks for itself.

There is not a man better known or better understood, for what he believes he talks everywhere and to everybody. He is always found on the side of the downtrodden and oppressed. Many a colored man remembers the interest he took in their welfare as mayor at the time of the noted exodus from the south.

Mr. Hardy is not a young man, and yet he is not as old as were some of our presidents, and not as old by many years as Gladstone.

It has now developed that a portion of Mr. Bartley's stealings were used in his frantic effort to elect Charles E. Casey treasurer, and in this way cover up the real condition of the state's treasury. When one republican succeeds another there is very little information given to the public.

In the organization of the present congress, J. A. Edgerton of Nebraska was the populist nominee for clerk of the house, receiving the 22 populist votes.

The committee appointed to investigate the state offices will find out, if possible, how much money Bartley used in trying to secure Casey's election.

THE JOURNAL'S POSITION.

The one thing about the state Journal most admired by politicians is its "loyalty to the party." In the election of Mayor the Journal is spite of its previous utterances is supporting the "regular nominees." We clip below from one issue of April 5th, 1896, just about one year ago. The chief organ of the hoodlers and gamblers realized then the present mayor was a failure, and that the promised prosperity to follow in the wake of "the wide open policy" had not materialized. The condition at present is even worse. Crime goes unpunished, and yet the Journal is frantic in its efforts to re-elect the present mayor and continue the "reign of shame." The Journal declared the system of regulation a failure, it said:

A HOUSE CLEANING.

"Some resolute men went out yesterday afternoon and began the work of clearing Lincoln of open gambling houses and other places where the law has been defied during the past year. They promise to keep up the work until the job is completed, and then they will ask the people to take some action to prevent a return to the conditions that have prevailed since the present city administration came into power last April.

"We believe they will receive substantial support from the business men of Lincoln and also from the general public. The people have waited patiently for the city officers to act. They have listened indulgently, if not approvingly to the explanation that "reasonable and practical control" of gambling houses and similar places would prove more satisfactory than harsh repressive measures. They have given the city administration one whole year to work out the system of "regulation" and at last realize that they have been mercilessly duped. Instead of wise regulation of these evils we have no regulation at all. The gamblers have been given their own way so long that they are even aspiring to regulate the affairs of the city themselves. They are active in politics. They not only keep their places open at all times, but they parade themselves and their business on the sidewalks, in the very face of the police, and talk loftily of the "protection" they enjoy.

"The people are sick. They have had enough. In another year they hope to change the situation through the enlarged opportunities given their individual voters by the new Lincoln system of making nominations. In the meantime they will take the matter in their own hands so far as they can by bringing actions against the gamblers, the keepers of gambling houses and the men who rent rooms for unlawful purposes. If the mayor will join in the movement, the law breakers will surrender without striking a blow. If the city authorities remain friendly to the gambling interests it will take a stubborn fight and the expenditure of some money to break up the business by sending the leaders to the penitentiary.

"During the coming week we shall see whether the people want the present policy continued or not or prefer to keep house next year with less vermin around the premises. There may be need of considerable help at this house cleaning and the wishes of every citizen can be fairly measured by the zeal with which he takes hold of the broom."

At the time of writing the above editorial the Journal did not suppose the present mayor would be re-nominated. To be placed in nomination by the republican party is sufficient to secure the support of the Journal. It atones for all crimes of whatever character. A "house cleaning was needed a year ago. The same old house with a year's added filth needs no cleaning now. Consistency is a jewel the Journal never saw.

WHY THE PARTY WILL LIVE.

Because it is builded around four divine truths recognized by no other party in American politics:

1. That those things which are in their nature public utilities should be owned and operated by the government—national, state or municipal—in the interest of all the people.

2. That money is a function of government and should be issued by government alone; that it is a creation of law and that it gains its virtue from the legal tender which is given it by law and not by any inherent value which the substance on which it is stamped may possess.

3. That the land was intended for all people; that therefore vast holdings of land for speculative purposes should be prohibited; that the land should be held for the homes and tillage.

4. That the people in their sovereign capacity have a right to originate or veto the laws under which they are to live.

These are four principles that no other party in the history of the republic has had the courage to enunciate.

They are today advocated by no other party.

They are the very fundamental ideas, the four corner-stones of the people's party.

Populism will live because these truths are eternal and will vitalize it. They are up now and they will never down until they are recognized in law.

The republican party is wedded to the service of manmon. It has promised that it cannot perform. In four years the people will turn from it in indignation and disgust. Its lease of power cannot outlive the century.

The democratic party—well, we hardly know where the democratic party does stand. At best it has only taken a step or two in the direction of reform and recently a large portion of it seems to indicate a desire to retrace these. It has been, for long years, the conservative party in American politics. May it not return to its old habits of thought? It is a very old party and in its long history has betrayed many principles—notably tariff reform. Even if it should hold the ground taken and should prove

true to the principles it professes, it will take only a step in the right direction and the four sublime truths enunciated by populism are beyond it.

The peoples party must live. It will live because it is right. It will live to teach the truth. It has a distinct mission to perform. No other party can sap its strength because no other party has the courage to espouse its principles.

It will live and it will grow in spite of the machinations of any or all other parties.

It will live because the great truths it has espoused are the questions of the future. They are rapidly coming to the front and will be the recognized issues at the beginning of the new century.

It will live because it is a house builded upon a rock—the rock of industrial liberty.

It will live because it is animated by a divine ideal—the brotherhood of man. J. A. E.

SCISSORS DEPARTMENT.

The Kicker almost always deserts at the critical moment.—Reform Press (Pueblo, Colo.)

Secretary Edgerton of the populist national committee refused to take part in the organization of a new reform press association at Kansas City last month. He served notice on those present at the meeting that he could not endorse the plan to organize a separate association. His course was wise, and shows that our national committee have the best interests of the populist party at heart and will not throw a straw in the way of perfect harmony, although they have been severely censured by the reform press for doing their duty as they saw it.—American X Rays, (Ogden, Utah.)

Tom Watson, through his paper, denies that he congratulated Skinner over his success in securing the election of Goldbug Republican Pritchard, "after the deed was done," but he acknowledges that he encouraged the effort before hand. This slip of the foot from the rock of everlasting rectitude may have been due to his desire to spite Senator Butler, but even that is a slim excuse for so rank a sacrifice of principle.—Iowa Tribune.

We have to note with regret that in a recent issue of this paper injustice was done to Hon. George Turner, populist, the newly elected senator of the United States from the state of Washington. The injustice consisted in a paragraph based upon a statement in the organ of the money power here, that Senator Turner was not in harmony with the principles of the peoples party platform, and that the professed certain political views more for the sake of obtaining populist votes than for any other purpose. A communication from a correspondent, together with an investigation of our own, shows that Senator Turner is a sincere man, a convinced populist, and to all appearances worthy of the high honor conferred upon him by the people of his state.—Twentieth Century.

Within the past five years Nebraska has suffered more from embezzlers, defaulters and public thieves than from all other causes combined. Crop failures and financial depression may have set the state back, but they have not injured its reputation or lowered public morals one half as much as the unpunished thievery of public officials.—Omaha Bee.

The populists and free silver republicans and Bryan democrats may, and in fact do differ about many things, but on one thing they all agree. They are radically and unalterably opposed to the gold standard. So long as there is a party in power or liable to come into power which believes in the gold standard, just so long will these forces manage to get together at the polls. Populists do not consider free silver a panacea for all of the ills of the country, far from it, but they know there is no sal-

A Bid for Extravagance.

Instead of saying one word upon the necessity of economy in his message to congress, President McKinley encouraged the extravagance that has produced the deficiency which is his excuse for the extra session.

He declared at the start that "we are presenting the remarkable spectacle of increasing our public debt by borrowing money to meet the ordinary outlays incident upon even an economical and prudent administration of the government." Is a succession of the billion-dollar congresses and an increase in the national expenditures of \$120,000,000 a year in ten years an evidence of "an economical and prudent administration of government?"

"Ample revenues" said the president in closing, "must be supplied not only for the ordinary expenses of the government but for prompt payment of liberal pensions." The cost of pensions has increased \$65,000,000 in ten years. This is the full amount of the deficiency for the current year. In other words, if congress, twenty-one years after the close of the war, had put a reasonable limit upon pensions—as General Grant and President Garfield both declared it should do—the present tariff bill, even after the income tax had been nullified would have yielded revenue enough.

Our pension list of \$140,000,000 now exceeds the total of the combined military pension lists of Europe. It has more than doubled since 1886. It costs more than some of the greatest standing armies in Europe.

Was there any necessity outside of the old-soldier demagoguery, for the president to lug in a reference to "the prompt payment of liberal pensions" in the face of a yawning deficit in the revenues?—New York World.

AN ACT TO PUNISH CONSUMERS.

The principal articles on which the Dingley bill makes heavy increase of taxation are wool and woolens, sugar, flax, cotton and other textiles, chemicals, cutlery and glass ware, spirits and tobacco.

The total increase in all the schedules is estimated by Mr. Dingley at \$112,000,000 a year on the basis of the importations for last year, so levied as to fall with its heaviest incidence on consumption.

Thus we have an increase of \$25,000,000 on wool and woolens, levied under a system of specific duties imposed regard-

less of value, and operating to take at least two dollars from the consumer for every dollar that goes into the treasury as revenue.

With the \$25,000,000 increase on wool and woollen clothing and with \$20,000,000 increase on sugar, another prime necessity of life, we have increases of only a single million on intoxicants and of only two millions on tobacco.

Perhaps tobacco and whiskey are taxed enough already—as wool and clothing certainly are. But these figures show how thoroughly the Dingley committee has disregarded every principle of sound economy in its anxiety to please campaign contributors and to satisfy the clamor of selfishness.

If the members of the committee would call the bill "An act to impose penalties on consumers and to cut down our export trade," they would come much nearer defining it than they do in their present title.—New York World.

If in Mr. Malby's opinion it is iniquitous to interfere with gas dividends of 30 per cent, how large a campaign contribution would be required to make him think it blasphemous to, denounce safe blowing?—New York World.

The Southern Mercury is a power for populism in the south, but they can do no good; and may do lots of harm by calling the populists of Nebraska pie-hunters, and by declaring that there were no populists at St. Louis at the recent press meeting held there. Can they claim for one instant that old J. V. Wolfe is not a populist? Would they think of condemning J. R. Sovereign as a pie-hunter? Lesser lights were there, who are as true populists as the editor of the Mercury, and this statement casts no reflection upon the latter, either. Warwick Saunders is as true as steel, and no one can cast a reflection on the true worth of our national secretary, Edgerton. Of course he makes mistakes—who doesn't? But mistakes of Edgerton's are not intentional. The mistakes that he has made are small when compared with the eternal, everlasting bickering between some of our leading writers. Edgerton has shown his true worth and good judgment in refusing to help organize a rival reform press association; we predict that under his counsel the "St. Louis" editors will all be under the wing of the national reform press association before the end of this year.—American X-Rays, Ogden, Utah.

vation for the country while the gold standard continues. They know it is an insurmountable barrier to prosperity, and that no remedy can be successfully applied which does not involve the overthrow of the gold standard.—Cedar Rapids Outlook.

We can find no words to express our regret that the reform press association has become involved in a wrangle. The cause suffers by these discords, and the enemies of progress rejoice. The one thing that the reformer should do is to avoid pleasing his enemies. That is to say, he should not help them defeat his own cause. The Reform Press association, part of which met in Memphis, and part in Kansas City showed a spirit of hostility which must cause the heart of every sincere reformer to bleed. It is all a mistake. Fight for your principles. Political parties will crystallize with or without your consent. We can not escape our destiny. A greater power than man shapes and delivers the issues of the ages. We can facilitate the movements of great revolutions. We may temporarily retard them, but to keep them permanently back, we are utterly powerless. The law of evolution conquers all. He is the true reformer, who, forgetful of self, seeks to unerringly interpret the law of the universe as applied to human society, and quickly obeys its mandates.—Progressive Age.

The peoples party will live and grow. It will be neither merged nor swallowed by any other party. Neither will it be ruled nor ruined by impracticable theories.—Creston, (Iowa) Morning American.

HAWAIIAN SUGAR.

The Sugar Trust has Difficulties with the Islanders.

An interesting contest is going on in congress over the question of abrogating the Hawaiian reciprocity treaty. Under the provisions of that treaty between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000 worth of sugar is imported into the United States free of duty. Nearly the whole of this is purchased by the Sugar Trust on a contract made with the planters.

This contract will terminate before the next crop is harvested, and the sugar Trust is trying to force a renewal at the same figures. The Hawaiian planters think that they ought to get a part of the benefits derived by the trusts through its importation of this sugar. Under the proposed schedule of the Dingley bill, this benefit will amount to one and one-half cents per pound, this being the amount that the trust will have to pay on imports of sugar from other countries. The Hawaiian planters have therefore refused to renew their contract with the trust unless it is made at a figure which will give them a part of the cent and a half which the trust will save by buying Hawaiian sugar. The island planters are now talking of erecting an independent refinery at some point on the California coast, and thus obtain all of the advantages of the tariff schedule for themselves.

Scrofula

Manifests itself in many different ways, like goitre, swellings, running sores, boils, salt rheum and pimples and other eruptions. Scarcely a man is wholly free from it, in some form. It clings tenaciously until the last vestige of scrofulous poison is eradicated from the blood by Hood's Sarsaparilla. Thousands of voluntary testimonials tell of suffering from scrofula, often inherited and most troublesome, positively, perfectly and permanently cured by

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