

# The Nebraska Independent.

The Wealth Makers and Lincoln Independent Consolidated.

VOL. VIII.

LINCOLN, NEBR., THURSDAY April 22 1897.

NO. 48.

## OPPOSE A CONFERENCE.

The National Committee Vote Against the Proposition by a Large Majority.

## PACIFIC ROADS IN THE SENATE

A Clash Between Bryan and the Democratic Clubs as to the Proper Issue.

Bold Leadership of the Populists.

Special to the INDEPENDENT, Washington, D. C., April 19, 1897: The people's party now occupies a commanding position in the house of representatives. The people's party congressmen, under the leadership of Simpson and Bell, have practically assumed the leadership of the opposition. It looks very much as if Bailey, the democratic leader, has an understanding with Speaker Reed and Leader Dingley on the republican side. At any rate, Bailey is insisting that the democrats shall not oppose the republican "do-nothing" policy. As soon as this was apparent, the people's party marched solidly to the front, and demanded that speaker Reed appoint the committees and give congress a chance to legislate. Simpson's arraignment of Reed's autocratic and despotic methods was one of the finest and most telling speeches that has been made in congress for many months. When Reed attempted to reply one of his excuses for not appointing the committees was that he had not had time to familiarize himself with the qualifications of the members of the house, stating that usually the speaker had from March 4, until December at the opening of the regular session to arrange his committees. Simpson, in reply, asked Reed how he or any one else knew that he would be speaker until congress met to elect a speaker. He said that speaker Reed's assumption was the most glaring piece of political "soonerism" that the country had ever witnessed. It was a palpable hit; everybody enjoyed it, and Reed was so completely floored that he did not attempt to reply, but blushed deeply at his own inadvantages.

A considerable element of silver democrats are rebelling against Bailey's position in approving the republican policy, and are openly backing up the people's party in the position which it has taken. The New York Journal a few days ago published a leading editorial commending the position taken by the people's party congressmen, and saying that the silver democrats ought to fall in line and take the same position. It is clear that it is Bailey's purpose to have congress adjourn with nothing done except the passage of the tariff bill. He hopes by this means to give the democratic party a chance to make opposition to the Dingley bill the leading issue in the next campaign. We have predicted this in former letters—that there was a deep laid plan between certain leaders of the two old parties to sidetrack the financial question with the tariff question for the future.

UNDER WHICH KING? In this connection it is important to note the difference between the address put forward on Monday of last week by the national association of democratic clubs, and the address delivered by Hon. William J. Bryan on Tuesday night following at the celebration of Jefferson's birthday.

The address of the clubs is pitched distinctly in the key of the old democratic slogan of tariff reform. In short, the address takes the Dingley bill for its text and spends its force in arraigning it. The address reads very much like a chapter of the democratic campaign book of 1892 when Cleveland was the candidate and tariff was the leading issue. It lays down afresh all of the old democratic contentions on the tariff and magnifies them. The address is important: 1st, because it was not hastily drawn and published; and 2d, because it is issued at this time. The authorship is attributed to Hon. Chauncey F. Black, the president of the association of clubs, and a man who ranks high in his party.

On the other hand, Mr. Bryan, in his address delivered the next day after the address of the clubs was published, insists that the right must be continued on the line of the last campaign. His whole speech was pitched in the key of financial and monopoly reform. It reads like one of his speeches in the last campaign. He takes the position, pointed and clear, that no tariff legislation can restore prosperity, and that tariff reform is of secondary consideration compared with the great and overshadowing question brought to the front in the last campaign.

The difference between this address of the clubs and Mr. Bryan's speech is exactly the difference that now appears among the democrats in the house of representatives. Which element in the democratic party will triumph, it is impossible to say; but one thing is certain: the people's party will see that financial and monopoly reforms are the leading questions for the future.

WILL NOT CALL A CONFERENCE. The National Committee of the people's party has by a large majority voted against holding a general conference of the party at this time. It will be remembered that a committee was appointed at the Memphis meeting to request Chairman Butler to call such a conference. He promptly submitted the request to each member of the National

Committee. Out of ninety-five answers received up to date, seventy-five are opposed to calling a conference, while some of the others are not positively in favor of calling a conference. This certainly ought to settle the question of a conference as far as every populist is concerned who wants the party united and aggressive. A people's party state convention was held in Kentucky last week, and the sentiment of the delegates there was overwhelmingly opposed to calling a conference. This would no doubt be the sentiment of the populists everywhere if they could be heard from directly at this time. A few may insist on continuing to clamor for a conference, but it is safe to say that they will not be supported in their course by the rank and file of the party. As good populists they ought to fall in line and stand with the majority. Any other course would simply tend to create discord and be playing into the hands of the enemy.

Chairman Davis of the Foreign Relations Committee made an unsuccessful effort to bring the Arbitration Treaty to a vote last week. He has given notice that he will make another effort during this week. It is greatly to be regretted that the Treaty could not have but little conception of how deep and dangerous a trap is set for them in this proposition which is being pressed under the false guise of peace and good will.

The various parties in the senate have not yet been able to reach an agreement as to the organization of the committees. As is well known, no party has a majority and whatever is done must be arranged by an understanding between the various parties. Senator Morgan has been pressing with vigor, and eloquently, his Cuban resolution. He has given notice that he will press it to a vote during the early part of the coming week, if possible. The country would certainly like to see the senators put on record in favor of or against this very just and patriotic resolution.

PACIFIC RAILROADS AGAIN. The people's party senators have determined to prevent the president and attorney-general if possible from disposing of the Union and Central Pacific railroads at a private or secret sale. They will demand that the executive take no action on this important question without the consent of congress.

It will be remembered that when the Huntington funding bill was before the house at the last session that it was generally understood that that bill, which proposed to extend the debt of the Pacific railroads for one hundred years, would pass the house, and that Huntington and his allies were making a hard fight to secure a majority for it in the senate. When they ascertained that they could not pass their measure through the senate, and realized that an attempt to do so would give the People's party senators an opportunity to ventilate the gigantic steal and corruption connected with these Pacific railroads, and to demand that it was the duty of the government to take charge of these defaulting roads and run them in the interest of the government, then suddenly Huntington and his allies changed their plan. The bill was defeated in the house to the surprise of the general public. It was defeated because congressmen who were known to be railroad attorneys and agents voted against the bill instead of for it, as they no doubt originally intended to do. It was then given out that the president would attempt to settle the matter between the government and these roads. Whereupon the senate promptly passed a resolution calling upon the president to inform the senate of the action he had taken and contemplated. This information has just reached the senate. It seems to indicate that there is a movement on foot to sell these roads for less than what they are worth, which will cheat the government out of part of debt due. During the coming week a bill will be introduced in the senate by one of the Populist senators, directing the president and attorney-general to enforce the law which provides for the government to take charge of the road upon default of the interest due of the principal and interest due. This will bring the fight for government ownership of railroads before the senate, and the fight and result will be watched with interest by every man who prefers to see the government own the railroads rather than have the railroads own the government.

A Good Market. At this season of the year the problem of how to dispose of wool to the very best advantage possible to the producer will no doubt engage the attention of a number of our readers and in this connection we take great pleasure in calling attention to the well known commission house of Summers Morrison & Co., 174 South Water street Chicago.

This firm are very large handlers of farm products of all kinds but at this season of the year they are making a special effort for shipments of wool, which article they handle very largely. Mr. Summers the head of the firm presides over the wool department of his business and gives all shipments of wool his personal attention and judging from the large increase in the volume of business done through this department the past few years we should say that they have made a very great success in handling wools as they have in other farm products.

This firm is one of the oldest of Chicago commission houses. They were established 17 years ago and they enjoy a reputation for honesty and fair dealing 2d to none in this market. They have advertised in the INDEPENDENT for a number of years and believing them to be thoroughly honest and reliable we have no hesitation in recommending them to our readers.

If you have any wool or farm products of any kind to sell, write this firm and they will take pleasure in quoting you prices and giving you all the information they possibly can in regard to the Chicago market and best manner of shipping.

## THE POPULIST LEADERS

Issue an Address to the Members of the People's Party in the Nation.

## THE COURSE OF DUTY DRAWN.

The Populist Party in a Position to Command the Situation Now and Hereafter.

5 Governors, 8 Senators, 33 Congressmen.

The following address was sent out from Washington last week by the joint caucus of the populist senators and congressmen. It indicates in a brief way the course they will pursue for the immediate future:

To the People's Party of the nation: Never in the history of our party has there been such cause for hope on the part of those who are seeking reforms along financial and industrial lines as at the present time. Our progress, considering the opposition that the party has met, has been marked; and, notwithstanding we have not as yet realized our full expectations, we now begin to see potent evidences of the good work we have done, with very encouraging signs for the future.

The people's party has won the confidence and respect of all intelligent and liberty-loving citizens of our country. Its record of unselfish devotion to the interests of the plain people is in striking contrast to that of the two old parties that for thirty years have overlooked the interests of the masses in their competition for favors at the hands of the money power, corporations, and trusts.

The unselfish devotion to principle exemplified by the people's party in the campaign of 1895 is without a parallel in the history of political parties. The robust integrity of the party enabled it to rise to meet the severest test to which loyalty to truth can ever be put. The people's party recognized the voice and hand of the plain people in the Chicago convention, and the chief candidate nominated evidenced beyond question that the masses of the democratic party, in spite of the hitherto dominant element of that party, had at last put forward one partially successful effort in their own behalf. Therefore, without abating our distrust of the leadership of that party in the past, we extend the right hand of fellowship to those voters who must, in the end, find their abiding place in our household.

The action of the people's party was in no sense an endorsement of the past record of the democratic party. But it was an act of fidelity to our own platform and teachings, a part of which found utterance in the Chicago platform, and nearly, if not quite all, in the person of W. J. Bryan, the candidate there nominated.

To the people's party is due the credit for the bolt in the republican convention at St. Louis, and for the revolt in the democratic party that rescued the Chicago convention from the bondholding and banking combine.

Politicians bow before the powers that can make or unmake them. The teachings of the people's party press and speakers on the money question had taken such deep root among the masses of the voters of the country that the old party politicians who had misled the people could no longer retain their offices and give their support to parties that upheld the gold standard. Those politicians who were unwillingly forced to accept our principles in the campaign of 1896 are probably no more sincere than they were when they supported Harrison and Cleveland in 1892; and should the people's party relax its efforts, and cease to apply the whip and spur to these politicians by attracting the voters to our party, there is nothing in their past conduct to warrant the belief that they would not support their old party again, though the gold combine should regain its control.

The patriotic stand taken by the populist party in the last campaign has added to its power to control the situation in the present and future. Had our party in the last campaign displayed no higher patriotism than the old parties, and sought merely party ends, and not proved itself equal to any party sacrifice in order to advance the welfare of the people, we would not now hold the confidence of the masses, and stand as a bulwark of the people against the intrigues of the old political leaders that have for thirty years betrayed the people and controlled their parties in the interests of the banks, monopolies and trusts.

Had Mr. Bryan been elected president with a congress in sympathy with him, the money question would have been speedily settled, and with forty or more trusted leaders of the party in congress, and the state government of several states in our hands, the transportation question and other vital issues presented by our platform would have at once become the storm center of political discussion, and the people's party would soon acquire second if not first place in the politics of our country. Viewing the duty of the present in the light of past experience, the demand for upholding our organization and pushing the work of education is more imperative now than at any time in the past.

We have governors in five states, eight senators and twenty-three congressmen, and the election in 1898 will undoubtedly give us the balance of power in the house as we now have it in the senate. The opportunity is before us to accomplish these results, and more.

We, your representatives at Washington, are striving to push forward the cause of the party, and to strengthen and build it up, and appeal to our reform papers to join us in this effort. There must be concentrated action and an avoidance of all entangling alliances to insure success.

We regret and deprecate the disposition of some to have the party at this time declare what it will or will not do in the future as to the best methods for strengthening the party and advancing its principles. No one can at this time forecast with certainty what would be the proper course of our party to pursue in convention assembled three years hence. Therefore, there is but one safe course, it seems to us, for every true populist to pursue at this time; namely, to do all in his power to impress our principles upon the country and to bring recruits into the party, and stand ready when the people's representatives meet in convention to do what then seems wisest and best to accomplish the ends for which we are all striving. The populist press can be a most powerful factor to bring this about. When the press of any party is united and aggressive, the party itself is united and aggressive. Therefore, we appeal to every true populist editor to cease the suicidal course of firing at each other. Turn your guns on the common enemy, and let each issue of your paper be full of articles discussing the tenets of the party as laid down in the last national platform. Let there be no relaxing of efforts, but a united and steady advance all along the line, and victory will crown our efforts.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON. Probable Action of the Senate in Relation to the Tariff Bill. The house continues to meet twice a week and adjourn.

There has been more than once when a quorum has been counted that it did not exist. Congressman Sutherland assures the writer that at one time when a quorum was counted that it was forty short on correct count of showing up that way, but a little thing like that is hardly considered worth mentioning up here.

Congressman Greene is at home this week, leaving his interests here in charge of his private secretary, Rod Smith. There is much work for the western congressman to do, and Mr. Smith must be a busy man.

There is some criticism of the president for taking public owned vessels for pleasure trips, asavoring a little too much of royalty and as not manifesting proper respect for the law—the real intent and spirit of the law, in times like this when it is important for all to obey and regard its provisions, the highest as well as the lowest. The republicans are making a lame defense that as commander of the army and navy he had a right to command them at all times and for all purposes, but they look a little ashamed as they contend that it was a sort of "military necessity" for the president and wife to go "a sailing" just at this juncture.

The senate committee is grinding along on the Dingley bill. The general expectation is that the senate will greatly lower duties, but Jerry Simpson claims to have it over the grape vine route from unquestionable republican sources, that duties will be generally raised rather than lowered by the senate, and that the talk to the contrary is simply a plan to fry fat. His information is that the demand is \$100,000 each for three states, Kentucky, Maryland and Oregon, and that when this is accomplished, the senate can be brought to elevate rather than depress the schedule. He says that the present session will be no exception to the rule that the higher body raises rather than lowers duties.

We see there is a silly rumor afloat, which seems to have originated with some of the admirers of Paul Vandervoort that Senator Allen is misappropriating the Bryan contribution. These virtuous doubters can again bolster up their confidence in humanity. The money has been securely invested in United States bonds where it will be available for some great party emergency, and where it cannot be expended without the full knowledge and consent of the generous donor. It would be very poor policy to diffuse and scatter that money, when it may in the midst of a campaign stand between the people and defeat in some great crisis.

The contest between Simpson and Reed, though the latter is strongly entrenched behind the rules, and will not fight fair, is still enough to excite the interest of every one in the capitol city. Most of the democrats sympathize with the populist contention, which Simpson, albeit a little previously announced, Bailey, of Texas, started off on the opposite track, that he was willing to go to the country on the tariff alone, and that he welcomed that issue, and hoped no other legislation would be enacted, but many of the strongest democrats in the house openly dissented from Mr. Bailey's views, and he will either have to modify them, or become a leader without followers. The speaker's ridiculous contention that he did not appoint committees and go on with the business because speakers should have from March to December to get acquainted with the new members, and make up his mind where to place them on committees, is regarded by his own followers as a bad break. It might have done fifty cents ago, but few men there are that do not know that speakers are not generally elected until the December session, and have no such time for deliberation as the speaker indicated. In addition to this the claim that it will take him to decide on what committeeships of importance he wishes to give to new members is all in your eye.

Andrews was courteous enough to leave a good part of his seed quota for his successor, but Hauser drew every package.

## VETOES SEVEN BILLS

Governor Holcomb Finds Several Measures That He Cannot Approve.

## HE GIVES HIS REASONS.

In a Letter Written to Honorable W. F. Porter, Secretary of State.

Vetoes Several Claims.

The governor has been carefully examining all the laws passed by the legislature before approving them. In doing so he has found several that he cannot approve for reasons given in his letter below. He vetoes several claims and items in the general appropriation bills. Among these was the appropriation of \$8,000 to pay for the bond for the state treasurer, \$3,000, appropriation for the use of the state university in examining accredited schools; a claim of N. Westover & Co., of \$385.85 for work and material furnished on the Grant Memorial Hall; a claim of Thomas Pratt for \$825 for services as watchman at the Nebraska building at the World's fair; a claim of Cass county of \$998.14 for taxes overpaid to the state. The governor did not approve or veto the blanket ballot law. It becomes a law without his signature. The letter to the secretary of state giving his reasons for the vetoes was as follows:

Executive Chamber, Lincoln, Nebraska, April 15.—To Hon. W. F. Porter, secretary of state, Lincoln, Neb.—Dear Sir:

The legislature having adjourned, I herewith present to you my reasons for withholding executive approval to senate file 250, entitled "An act to amend section 21 of subdivision 17, chapter 79, being section 4875, of the compiled statutes of Nebraska, 1895, relating to schools and to repeal the said section above named, as now existing." It is sought by this act to change the method of levying taxes for the support of the schools in the metropolitan class from that heretofore existing. It is admitted that the object of the change sought to be made is for the purpose of increasing the tax levy for school purposes. This of itself is sufficient to require careful consideration. The weight of taxation being already a grievous burden to be borne by the taxpayers. By an examination of the law providing for and limiting taxation for school purposes, it will be found that the provisions already in existence and which seem to have operated with reasonable satisfaction to all concerned heretofore are quite uniform and explicit in their terms and place the levying of taxes for this as well as all other purposes in one body or board, where it would seem to most properly belong. The division of the power of taxation among many different bodies cannot help but have a tendency to increase rather than to bring in legitimate bounds the rate of tax levies and to render it extremely difficult to place the responsibility for extravagance or unnecessary expenditures from the public treasury. By section 4672 of the statutes it is provided that the legal voters at any annual meeting shall determine by vote the number of mills on the dollar (which shall be levied for all purposes, except for the payment of bonded indebtedness), which number shall not exceed 25 mills in every year. The taxes so voted shall be reported to and levied by the county commissioners and collected like other taxes. This applies to all school districts in the state other than those in cities of all classes where boards of education are provided. Section 4821, which applies to all cities in the state having boards of education, except cities of the metropolitan class, provides that "the board of education shall annually during the month of June report to the county commissioners an estimate of the amount of funds required for the support of the schools during the fiscal year next ensuing \* \* \* and the county commissioners are hereby authorized and required to levy and collect the necessary amounts the same as other taxes." Section 4875, the one under consideration and the one which applies to cities of the metropolitan class, provides that the board of education shall annually during the month of January report to the city council an estimate of the amount of funds required for the support of the schools \* \* \* and the city council is hereby authorized and required to levy and collect said amount the same as other taxes." It will thus be seen that the law governing the raising of taxes in all cities in the state, including those of the metropolitan cities, is almost identical as now existing, except that in cities of the metropolitan class the city council, which is the authority under the city charter to levy and collect taxes, is authorized and required to make the necessary levy, while in all other cities this duty devolves upon the county commissioners. It would seem, therefore, that the object and intent of the lawmakers in this respect has been to concentrate and place the duty and authority for levying taxes for all purposes in one body rather than to divide this most important duty among many different bodies, thus dividing the responsibility and creating opportunities for diversity of opinion, discord and high levies, rather than to carry out what I conceive to be the intent of legislation upon this subject heretofore, and which seems to me to be more wise, to confine the authority to

levy taxes to as few boards or bodies as may reasonably be done.

For these reasons and others which have been considered and which are of minor importance I deem it my duty to hereby disapprove of the act referred to.

STATE TREASURER'S BONDS.

The twenty-fifth session of the legislature having adjourned, I transmit herewith to you house roll No. 354, entitled "An act providing for the payment out of the state treasury of the premium on the state treasurer's bond, when such bond is executed by a surety company authorized by the laws of Nebraska to execute such bond, such premium not to exceed one-third of one per cent per annum of the penalty stated in the bond; and appropriating funds for the payment of such premium," from which executive approval is withheld for the following reasons: It is sought by this act to provide that when the state treasurer shall furnish a bond executed by a surety company authorized by the laws of the state to execute such bond, to pay the premium of such surety or guarantee bond out of the state treasury and appropriating the sum of \$8,000 therefor. This measure seems to have been introduced in anticipation of the passage of house roll No. 320, amending sections 8, 9, 18 and 21, chapter 10, the same being an act concerning official bonds and oaths, which bill did not finally pass each branch of the legislature, thus rendering useless the provisions of the bill under consideration.

I am also of the opinion that it is very doubtful as to the wisdom of establishing a precedent in the case of paying the premiums of guarantee bonds of any public official out of the public treasury. If one public official is to receive this favor, it is difficult to predict where and when the end would be reached. As each public official having to give a bond would desire to be treated with the same consideration as any other, the burden thus imposed upon the people of the state would be greater than they could bear.

For the reasons above given I disapprove of this act.

LEGAL NEWSPAPER.

The twenty-fifth session of the legislature having adjourned, it becomes my duty to communicate to you any action taken by me upon measures passed by that body and acted upon by me since its adjournment. I herewith transmit house roll No. 241, entitled "An act to amend an act entitled an act defining a legal newspaper for the publication of legal and other official notices in the state of Nebraska and to repeal sections 16, 17 and 18, of chapter 68, of the compiled statutes of Nebraska." Executive approval is withheld from this act for the reason that it has been made to appear to me that the act after it had been passed by one branch of the legislature was amended in the other and as amended was returned to the branch in which it originated, after which no further action was taken by either branch of the legislature. And such act as amended and presented to me, as shown by the records, has never been concurred in by both branches of the legislature by a constitutional majority as required by law. I therefore disapprove the measure and return it without my signature.

I also hand you senate file No. 273, entitled "An act to amend section 1, of subdivision 18, of chapter 79, of the compiled statutes of Nebraska of 1895, entitled 'School books,' and to repeal said original section," from which executive approval is withheld for the reason that it appears from the records of the legislature that having passed one branch, it failed to receive a constitutional majority of the other. This measure is, therefore, disapproved by me.

STOCK COMMISSIONS.

The legislature having adjourned, I transmit herewith, without approval, house roll No. 263, entitled "An act to regulate stock yards and fix commissions for selling live stock therein, and providing punishment for violation thereof."

I have already approved an act to regulate stock yards and declaring them to be public markets, and regulating all charges thereof, and the approval of this bill might lead to a serious conflict as to the law respecting the regulation of stock yards in the state. However, the main object sought to be accomplished by this bill in preventing combinations is secured by the Gondring anti-trust act, senate file No. 330, which has received executive approval. The anti-trust law is complete in its provisions and effectually does away with any combinations to control prices. Under its provisions the charges sought to be determined specifically by this act will, like all others, be regulated by the law of supply and demand.

I am not aware that there has been any general complaint of unjust or extortionate charges by the commission men at the stock yards and am of the opinion that they are usually consistent, reasonable and fair.

In my judgment the bill is of very doubtful constitutionality. It would seem that if the charges of the live stock commission men can be regulated by special enactment, the law should be broad enough to control under its provisions commission men engaged in all other branches of business. This could only be successfully accomplished by creating a board of control to regulate prices so as not to work any person an injustice.

I doubt the authority of the legislature to fix charges in such cases, especially where the business is open to competition and can be engaged in by any person desiring to do so.

Under existing circumstances I do not feel that public interests would best be served by the enactment of such a law and my approval is therefore withheld from house roll No. 263.

FARES AND PUBLIC GROUNDS.

The legislature having adjourned, I herewith transmit to you senate file No. 41, entitled "An act to amend section

(Continued on 5th page.)