

Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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Which do you prefer much debt and McKinley prosperity or 50 cent dollars and less debt?

The committee investigating the state officers will take nothing for granted, it insists on being shown.

Note the date marked on your paper, and if subscription is past due, please send in the dollar.

The one man house of representatives has succeeded in protecting Woolen Manufacturer Dingley. That is all it has done.

Congress is doing nothing, while Cuba and Greece yearn for sympathy. Oh, that we had some Henry Clays and Daniel Websters in the senate!

The gold reserve is experiencing some hard knocks these days, and withdrawals for export have set in. That means another bond issue. Mark it.

Who is an anarchist, according to the "sound money" definition? A man who is fool enough to earn money and not steal it.—Silver Knight Watchman.

Get up a club of four yearly subscribers and send to this office (cash with the order) and we will send you prepaid one copy of Bryan's book "The First Battle," to pay you for your labor.

The Bimetallist is the name of a new publication at Nebraska City. It is neatly put up, and ably edited. Put it on your exchange list. When you read it you will prize it more than any.

The Reporter and Record of Randolph, Nebraska, have been consolidated with Harry Hammond as editor. It will be a "free silver and reform newspaper, irrespective of party." This is more evidence that the silver craze is dying out.

That Warden Leckie is a success as warden is shown by the fact that during the month of April there was not a case of punishment for any cause whatever. His report to the commissioner shows that he has 310 convicts in his charge at this time.

The people elected a congress upon the financial issue, but congress is dallying away the time without even proposing any financial legislation. It looks as if they were afraid that the gold standard enactments would prove disastrous to their party.

The ex-presidents are a peculiar class of men. Harrison before college students made a ringing speech against inoponies. In the next speech of importance he made he was denying the constitutionality of a three cent fare street car bill in the city of Indianapolis.

Some of the populists of Indiana have undertaken to expel a certain other lot of populists. If these enthusiastic workers would devote their energy and attention to building up the party by securing converts from the old parties, they would be more successful and would very soon secure the enactment of populist principles into law.

Mr. Edgerton has taken a trip south for his health and while absent desires to be relieved of all editorial work. He will return the latter part of May when he will again be ready for duty. He has been under medical treatment for some time and goes away by the advice of his physician for rest and recuperation. He is at Sulphur Springs, Ark., the guest of Hon. J. R. Sovereign.

Last week Mr. Edmisten, the state oil inspector, turned \$500 into the state treasury, that being the amount that the receipts from fees exceeded the expenses of the department for the past three months. If Mr. Edmisten had been governed by the precedent established by his predecessor, he would have deposited this check in some bank to the credit of J. H. Edmisten.

The editors and publishers of all newspapers in the Sixth Congressional district will hold a meeting in Valentine, June 5, 1897. Everyone should attend. The object is to form a press association of the editors and publishers of that district. The invitation is sent out by W. B. Barker of the Republican, George H. Riser of the Western News and Robert Good of the Valentine Democrat.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

There is not an institution in the state that so justly merits the pride of all citizens as the Nebraska State University. It is recognized everywhere as the greatest seat of learning west of the Mississippi. It has as a rule escaped the changes usually following a change in the political control of the state. All political parties have vied with each other in an effort to exhibit the greatest liberality to this magnificent institution. It was right that they should. It has been fortunate for the university that they did. Notwithstanding the hard times the populist legislature of this year appropriated more money for the support of the university than has ever been appropriated by any other legislature in the history of the state. The populist party has always favored education and educational institutions. It was the more surprising that the last legislature should be so liberal with the university when it was well known that the present chancellor was a pronounced and active gold-bug engaged for the place by a board of regents always overwhelmingly republican. It was their love for education and their admiration of the University that prompted them to do it. All this is called to mind by the recent hasty and apparently unwarranted action of the board of regents in dismissing Prof. H. K. Wolfe from the department of Psychology. Prof. Wolfe had no notice of the contemplated action. During the meeting of the board he was summoned before a conference committee. As Prof. Wolfe had asked for an increased allowance of funds for his department he supposed that the conference was to be in relation to that, and he took with him a handful of notations and tables of figures showing why his department needed the increased allowance. To his surprise, the chancellor, who was a member of the committee, stated to him that it had been decided that his services for the university should cease September 1st. Prof. Wolfe was completely surprised. He inquired the reason. Practically no reason was given; the chancellor merely charging "meddlesomeness. The chancellor did not pursue the usual course in case of dismissals and prefer his charges in writing as he did in all other changes. It was a slight of hand performance; a lick below the belt.

Aside from the vague charge of meddlesomeness which is generally regarded as a mere subterfuge, an excuse, the public is left to surmise the real cause.

So far as can be learned by careful and diligent inquiry, the charge of meddlesomeness was based upon an oral charge, made to the chancellor by Wolfe, that another department in the university had reported as giving instruction to more students than the facts would warrant. The charge was material in this way: It is the custom in apportioning the university funds to the different departments to take into account the number of students in the department and give the larger department more funds. If one department reported having more students than it really had, and secured the apportionment of funds on that basis, it would receive more than its just proportion of the funds and other departments would receive proportionately less than they were entitled to. It was a matter that a very little investigation would settle. There was nothing in it to warrant a request for the resignation of any member of the faculty, especially the head of a department seeking only justice and protecting his department from the unwarranted encroachments of another department. The people will never accept such an excuse as the real reason.

Professor Wolfe is a son of the present land commissioner, J. V. Wolfe. He graduated from the Nebraska University in 1886; taught in the public schools to earn money to go abroad to school. He spent three years in Germany and graduated with the highest honors from Leipsic, one of the most famous universities in Germany, receiving a Ph. D. degree. He returned to Lincoln and pursued original work in his line, until 1889 when he was given the opportunity to establish a Psychological department in the Nebraska University. He started at a small salary but was steadily promoted during Canfield's administration until he became a full professor. The department, which is now one of the strongest of its kind in the United States, has been built up solely by the efforts of Professor Wolfe.

He commands the admiration and respect of all of the students. More than three-fourths of them denounce the action of the board of regents. The real feeling in the university was best shown when at chapel, the next morning after the action of the regents became known, they did what was never known in the history of the university before; they hissed the chancellor and board of regents, and called loudly for "Wolfe, Wolfe." The students in the university are not children. They are young men and women of good judgment. They would not take such action without a cause. The students regard the matter as an attempt on the part of certain parties to gratify their desire for personal revenge. The chancellor and regents have all admitted that there was no charge against Professor Wolfe of incompetency or inattention to his duties.

In a statistical report sent out by the department of agriculture concerning the value of farm animals for a series of years is some very interesting figures. The average value shows a continued decrease. It is well illustrated in the case of horses. The average price in the United States has shown a continued fall in price. In 1884 the average price was \$74.64. In 1892 it was \$65.01; in 1893, \$61.22; in 1894, \$47.83; in 1895, \$36.29; in 1896, \$33.09; in January, 1897, \$31.61. In some of the western states in the range country good horses are rated as low as \$2 per head. What is true of horses is true of a great many other farm animals and farm products. Every one is willing to admit that horses have "fallen in price." How many will admit that a large part of the "fall in price" should be accounted for by saying that "money has risen in value?" It is certainly true.

Two peculiar statements are made by the newly elected republican senator from Kentucky. In an interview recently published Mr. Deboe said:

"I favor the gold standard, a high protective tariff, the arbitration treaty, and the administration of William McKinley." His other statement was, "You will find I am not a friend of trusts." Just how a man can favor the gold standard (which is nothing more than the money trust), a high protective tariff which has fostered and built up more trusts than any other principle in government, and the administration of William McKinley, and at the same time be an anti-trust man is a problem beyond the comprehension of most thinking people. We predict for him a record similar to that of John M. Thurston, who advocated free silver, but voted for gold.

Those who claim that the attorney general has been lenient in prosecuting defaulting state officials, should point out specifically the manner in which he could have been more vigorous. He has already begun four suits and promises others as soon as the facts are available. The republican courts will have several opportunities to imprison their defaulting officers. All the attorney general can do is to lay the case before the courts and abide the result. Time will tell whether the assertions of the Bee and some other papers, that the republican party is anxious to punish its defaulters is true or not. Their judicial officers will have plenty of opportunities to meet the question fairly.

Dunn & Co., in their review of trade conditions on May 1 admit that "business is disappointing." It shows a large increase in the export of gold during April and adds in quite a different strain from the ante-election tone that "the exports of gold would not have much influence if there were not an extraordinary increase in merchandise imports." Before election it was the gold reserve that needed protection. Dunn & Co., now complain of excessive imports. If it were not for the excessive imports we should like to have Dunn & Co., explain how it would be possible for the United States treasury to meet this enormous demand for gold for export?

"Luckily," says the Philadelphia Record, (gold democratic) "while our own government is chaffering with the Bethlehem and Carnegie iron trying to cheapen their wares and threatening to confiscate and Chandlerize their plants, the Russian government is asking them to submit proposals for new battle ships." Here's consistency for you. Satisfied to give England control of our financial system, this goldbug organ is willing that Mr. Carnegie should "hold up" the government, and gloat at the thought that they may be able to keep agogo by furnishing a foreign country armor plate at a low price, which they refuse to the United States.

It was in the power of the state printing board to engage a clerk at a salary of \$1800, under the provisions of H. R. 371. It would have made a good position for some worthy party man, but the board has decided to get along without the clerk and save the necessity of \$3600 appropriation by the next legislature to pay his salary. The printing board organized last week, with Cornell as chairman and Porter as secretary. Mr. Meserve is the other member. They will call in clerks from their offices to assist in the work when necessary. This is another case where populist officials have practiced economy.

Henry O. Havemeyer, the sugar king, is not satisfied with the ordinary in his state for a residence place, but is now engaged in having built at a convenient point on Long Island, an American Venice, with Douglas, etc. It costs money to do it but so long as the American people are willing to furnish him funds they have no right to kick as to how he uses it. It is no concern of his if a human suffers. It is his business to get all he can and under the Dingley bill it looks as if he will be able to get all he wants.

Delinquent subscribers will find the date of expiration of their subscription on the wrapper in which the paper is sent or at the top of the paper near the address. They should take notice and make a remittance of the amount due, and renew for another year.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

We are glad to note that the press of the country is gradually beginning to realize that there is really some good in the populist party and its platform. The repeated failures of national, state and savings banks have set the public minds to thinking that there must be some means devised by which the savings of the people shall be absolutely secure. It is not a pleasant thought to any man who has a heart that beats for his brother to stand by and see the savings of a life-time swept away by the ruthless hands of unconscionable bank officials and feel he is powerless to prevent such a catastrophe. The failures which have occurred since the alleged saviors of the country and the advance agent of prosperity have been placed in power, and the misery and ruin which has been wrought, has caused almost a universal cry to go up for some law to provide for the protection of depositors. In several notable instances there has been a demand made for postal savings banks. The people are beginning to realize that there must be something of the kind provided if they are to be assured that their money is always safe. Nor would the good end of the assured safety of the funds. The knowledge that their money would be absolutely safe in a postal savings bank would lead those who now hoard away their treasure to deposit it rather than retain the burden of its keeping. This would in no small manner add to the circulation of the country, and the beneficial effects of such a system would be so great that the people would be astounded. The heaven is working. After a while there will arise occasions which will call attention to other planks in the platform, and the people will finally seek to secure all these beneficent measures through the only party which stands pledged to enact them when placed in power—the populist party.

IT HAS DEFECTS.

As a general rule, the people of the United States are proud of their postal system. Its growth has been phenomenal. Starting with 75 postmasters and an annual expenditure of \$37,000 under Washington, it has grown nearly 75,000 postmasters, and an annual expenditure of \$92,000,000. The price of postage has been steadily reduced, and we can now send a letter for 2 cents. Yet, in all its splendid achievements it is not a perfect system. It has grave defects.

It is defective in that enormous overcharges are paid to the railway service, and the loss to the government amounts to fully \$15,000,000. These overcharges are beyond belief. If you will look up the postmaster-general's reports you will learn that the government pays 8 cents per pound for the transportation of mail matter in addition to rentals of postal cars. Express companies, that make large profits are charged 1 cent per pound and less for the same service. Not only this, but while the average life of a postal car is twenty years, the government pays on an average of 200 per cent on the cost of a postal car as yearly rental, in addition to paying eight times the charge per pound paid by express companies. The government pays for the rental of postal cars \$3,600,000 annually; more than enough to build nearly double the number in use. Think of it! The cars used by the government could be built for \$2,000,000. They would last twenty years. Yet the government pays in twenty years \$72,000,000 for rental of property it could acquire for \$2,000,000. New York railroads haul certain goods for one-sixth of one cent at a profit, yet charge the government forty-eight times as much for hauling its mail the same distance. If such figures as are here given are not powerful arguments in favor of government ownership of railways, then we are at fault. It is no wonder there is always a deficit in the postal department.

IT IS NOT ANARCHY.

Senator Chandler of New Hampshire, has introduced a bill authorizing the government to seize and operate the Carnegie and Bethlehem iron and steel works for the purpose of making armor plate. It is presumed that the New England senator's action was taken because the government has been unable to secure bids for less than \$300 per ton of armor from these or other firms with one exception, the excepted company demanding that at its bid of \$120 per ton it be granted what men term a monopoly of furnishing armor plate for a period of twenty years. The bill is denounced by various eastern papers as "anarchy" "absurd and vicious" and likened to the highwayman's "stand and deliver."

Carnegie and his representatives state that \$300 per ton is insufficient and refuse to furnish it at that price.

If this isn't in the nature of a conspiracy, what would a sensible man term it? Surely not patriotism. If workingmen should strike for higher wages and thus be the means of retarding government work they would be severely dealt with. But Mr. Carnegie and his associates may conspire and refuse to furnish plates to the government unless they get their price. And what happens? Why, the spectacle is presented to the United States of the secretary of the navy, (a republican) begging congress to change the law so that Carnegie & Co. may continue to do in the future as

they have done in the past, and pillage the treasury.

The law should not be changed, if Mr. Carnegie can furnish plate to Russia at a low price, he certainly ought to be able to treat Uncle Sam as liberally. Of course Mr. Carnegie is entitled to a reasonable profit on his output. But if he demands an unreasonable profit, that is robbery, and if the government cannot get the plate it wants without giving to this trust the privilege of robbing the people, then it is time to call a halt. Mr. Chandler's bill, far from being anything anarchistic or absurd and vicious, is a good measure, introduced to relieve the people of an unjust burden, and under the circumstances ought to become a law, and the seizure made. The United States is too large a country to be compelled to stand and deliver at the command of Mr. Carnegie or any other man.

UNFORTUNATE TAXPAYERS.

The taxpayers of this state have been unfortunate in the extreme. They owed a \$200,000 bonded debt and had provided for a sinking fund from which to pay it when due. They met the interest payments regularly and according to the treasurer's records had nearly the required amount of cash in the sinking fund to pay the bonds when they became due. Suddenly the Capital National bank failed and \$180,000 of their savings in this fund was lost in the wreck. The legislature met and took from the general fund a sum sufficient to replace the loss to the bond fund. They trusted two state officials, Moore and Bartley, to make the transfer from one fund to the other. These officials picked it up out of the general fund the first day that it was available, but have never put it into the bond fund. The taxpayers of Nebraska must gather together of their hard earnings a sum sufficient to meet the indebtedness and pay it for a third time. This time it will be handled by populist officials, and the INDEPENDENT predicts that it will reach its destination. Meserve and Cornell are a different brand of men from Moore and Bartley.

The citizens of this state are fortunate in making a change in the state administration. Had the republicans been in power two years longer the result can only be surmised. The great party of "honest money" and "state credit" would have stripped the state of all its money and credits. It is a record that should damn the republican party in this state forever.

IT IS COMING.

The populists have every reason to feel greatly encouraged at the present wholesome and healthy growth of sentiment in favor of those government reforms first enunciated by them in the Omaha platform and reaffirmed by each succeeding national platform.

It is undeniably true that there is a wide-spread tendency on the part of the public and also on the part of a few prominent papers to look with favor on at least two fundamental principles of the populist party—the establishment of the postal savings banks and the municipal ownership of street railways.

It may surprise the readers of the INDEPENDENT to learn that right in the hot bed of goldbugism, the city of New York, steps are now being taken looking to the municipal ownership of its street railways. Seems queer and curious doesn't it? It is true, nevertheless. The New York Mail and Express in commenting upon the attempt of the city to secure possession of the Sixth and Eighth Avenue surface roads in accordance with the provisions of the franchise granted fifty years ago, and the offer of \$4,000,000 by the Third Avenue company for the lines if re-acquired by the city, has this to say as to the worth of the franchises as shown by the offers that have been made for them:

"They show that in its street railway franchises, whether already granted or not, the city possesses an asset which should pay for a considerable portion of the city improvements and lessen materially the burden of direct taxation. In its water front and its docks the city has another possible asset, which if utilized to the utmost, as in Liverpool, would alone almost pay the annual budget. Under an administration which spends the city moneys honestly and economically our citizens are waking up to a realization of the hitherto latent resources of the municipality. The city railway

franchises constitute one of the most important of them."

Nor is the Mail and Express alone in its opinion as to the great value of the public streets to the city. The Chicago Record, in editorially speaking of the New York matter says:

"Chicago will do well to notice very carefully the steps New York is now taking looking to municipal ownership of its street railways. It is needless to say that the present owners of these valuable franchises, like those in Chicago, are very much disturbed at the prospect that they will have to restore to the people this valuable property after having had the benefit of it for half a century."

Chicago, however, is at present greatly handicapped in any desire it may possess to re-purchase the franchise of its street railways, as it has no authority under the law either to raise money to repurchase or to operate them after securing them. This difficulty was met by the introduction by Senator Ford in the Illinois legislature of a bill giving Chicago authority to issue bonds to purchase the roads, and another bill was introduced conferring power to "acquire, operate or lease" the roads, but their introduction came too late in the session to be considered fully.

The people are waking up. They are just beginning to realize that they have an inexhaustible source of great revenue in their city streets, a revenue which grows with the city's growth.

In Chicago the sentiment has been rapid in favor of municipal ownership because of the introduction of the Humphrey bills giving to the street railway magnates control of the streets for the next fifty years. We believe they failed of passage, but their consideration, even, was sufficient to alarm the citizens of the windy city.

Elsewhere the grasping greed of the corporations will help to crystallize sentiment in favor of municipal ownership, and the day is not far distant when the present so-called "vagaries" of the "pops" will be no vagaries at all, but will be recognized as the efforts of a party to lessen the onerous exactions of corporations and trusts of all descriptions.

In Illinois, bank wreckers are treated a little different from the general system in vogue in this state. President Spalding of the Globe Savings bank has been confined in an iron cell in the common jail. He receives his meals from the jail keeper in the same manner as other prisoners. He is supposed to have robbed the depositors of about \$800,000. What a horrible thing it would be in Nebraska to have Moore and Bartley treated in that manner.

A new western passenger association has made its appearance, with practically the same membership among western railroads that its predecessor had. It's a cold day in a warm month when the railroads fail to find a way to evade a statute or a court decision.—Omaha Bee.

The Bee might have added in a similar strain that it is a colder day in a warmer month when a republican court cannot find an excuse for releasing a defaulting republican state official.

Consolidation and concentration is the distinguishing feature of the times. This is especially true in the banking business. For many years small banks have been nothing more than agents for larger concerns. They have become so involved in debt that they are rapidly being absorbed by the greater and stronger institutions. The only remedy for this is for the government to establish a government banking system.

Auditor John F. Cornell has decided that under existing laws farmers mutual insurance companies may insure country churches, country parsonages, and country school houses. The law provides that these companies may insure, "detached farm dwellings, barns, except livery and hotel barns, and other farm buildings." The auditor holds that farmers churches, parsonages and school houses, come under the head of other farm buildings. The decision is a proper one. Decisions to the contrary have been in the interest of old line companies. Auditor Cornell has shown himself to be a just and fearless officer, and a friend of mutual insurance.

We buy Linseed Oil We buy White Lead IN CAR LOADS IN CAR LOADS Direct from the Crushers. Direct from the Corroders. WE MANUFACTURE THE LINCOLN PAINT (ABSOLUTELY PURE.) We Name the Lowest Prices And Save You Money. See us Lincoln Paint & Color Co., NINTH AND M STREETS. Special to Painters.