

The Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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STATE COMMITTEE MEETING.

To the Members of the state Committee of the People's Independent party of the state of Nebraska.

Gentlemen:—We, the secretary and chairman of the state committee, do hereby announce the official call of such committee, to take place at the city of Lincoln on July 4th at 2 p. m. at the Lincoln Hotel, for the purpose of fixing the time and naming the place of the holding of the state convention of the People's Independent Party of Nebraska, and attending to any other business that may come before it.

As Bartley gets nearer to the penitentiary state warrants get nearer to par. A remarkable coincidence.

Our ability to produce excels that of every other nation in the world, but as for our distribution—it's bad. A few men, with the aid of congress, get it all.

Statistics show that as our population increases the per capita expense of government increases also. In the face of such a record should we pursue the policy of annexation?

Some chapters in history should be carefully studied by custodians of public money—"Barrett Scott," "Maxey Cobb," "City Treasurer Bolla," "State Treasurer Bartley." The next chapter that will be added will be entitled "Eugene Moore."

The Wahoo Wasp, a republican paper cites the fact that the treasury department coined \$1,500,000 new silver dollars last month as an evidence of returning prosperity. If a little coinage brings a little prosperity, why not have more coinage of silver and more prosperity?

It would be a very proper subject for the present congress to consider favorably a bill providing for a protective tariff, and bounty upon the production of republicans in Nebraska. It is an industry that greatly needs protection or it may die out entirely. It has passed through the infant and middle life stages and is now in its second childhood and needs more protection and fostering care than ever before. Senator Thurston should prepare such a bill without delay.

A Washington News letter sent out by the National information bureau speaking of Congressman W. L. Green says:

Representative Green the brilliant satirist of the plains, who even excels Mr. Bryan in oratorical ability, has been confined to the house by the sickness of his daughter. We hope to see Mr. Green stirring up the animals on the floor of the House before long; for at the present time, it seems that the House is in a condition of what Grover Cleveland would call a state of "innocuous desuetude." They do not even get up a decent fracas.

If we remember there were certain republican papers in the state that were asserting not very long ago, that the attorney-general was not vigorously prosecuting the case against Ex-Treasurer Bartley. Wonder what they will say about it now? Come, speak out. Tell the people when the republican party ever elected an attorney-general that performed his duty so fearlessly and faithfully as has the Hon. C. J. Smyth.

The INDEPENDENT acknowledges the receipt of a large and very valuable map of the United States and a late volume of the coinage laws, from Hon. A. E. Sutherland, congressman from the Fifth district. The editor returns thanks and hopes to be remembered again.

Sutherland is the right kind of a congressman. He has a mind large enough to remember his friends in all parts of the state of Nebraska.

In outlining the future policy of the Holt County Independent, its editor, Mr. O. F. Biglin very properly takes a broad and liberal view of the situation that confronts him in Holt county. He says he will not recognize factions. That is correct. A people's party paper should consider only the welfare of the populist party as a whole. Factions and cliques generally represent the combined selfishness of a set of individuals, organized to prey upon the community. They have no place in the populist party, and are not entitled to the support of populist papers. The editor says: "The aim of the Holt County Independent will be to promulgate the doctrine of the people's party as enunciated by the Omaha and St. Louis platforms." Its a good text, stick to it.

THE POLICY OF ANNEXATION.

It is a surprising fact that every time the sugar trust succeeds in getting a multi-million dollar steal through congress, the question of the annexation of the island of Hawaii "bobs up serenely." It would seem that the Congress and Senate were very anxious to divert the attention of the people from their latest act of robbery. It has been so in the past, but will hardly work so well this time. The American people know that their representatives have passed a sugar schedule that will enable the great trust to take more than \$53,000,000 from the pockets of the sugar consumers of the United States. In the language of Senator Allen, it is merely "legalized larceny."

As for annexation the people of the United States do not favor it. Their reasons are many. It would prove to be a very expensive luxury to control an island 2,500 miles from the American coast. The American people will not allow foreign nations to increase their holdings in the western hemisphere. That is the Monroe doctrine, and should be stoutly maintained. Annexation is entirely different. It is a scheme of the millionaire bondholders of Lombard and Wall Street. They hold the almost worthless securities of the Sandwich Islands, and desire to boom them at the expense of Uncle Sam. It may be argued that \$4,000,000 is not much for a great nation like this. Little or big a steal is a steal and should be denounced. It establishes a very bad precedent. There are many islands in the various oceans of the world. The bondholders will bond these islands, one or more at a time, for many times their value, and then with a corrupt lobby secure their annexation to the United States with the proviso in the treaty of annexation that Uncle Sam shall assume and pay the bonded indebtedness. It is a great scheme, but its suicide for the party that dares to uphold it.

THE TRIBUNE'S EVOLUTION.

The Chicago Tribune has been established for more than fifty years. It has seen the rise and growth of the republican party. It will probably live to see its complete downfall. The Tribune has been the most vicious of any of the Chicago papers in attacking and abusing the populist party and its principles and platforms. Since the last election it seems to have made great advancement and speaks favorably of many populist principles.

Republicanism in Illinois like republicanism in Nebraska, has decayed past all endurance. The last legislature, which was overwhelmingly republican, sold out the entire state to the monopolists of Chicago. One of the most corrupt acts that it passed was the Allen bill, and the republican governor has signed it. The bill, as originally introduced, contained a populist referendum clause, providing that the act must be approved by a majority of the voters of Chicago before the law would become operative. This populist principle was offensive to the republican legislature and it was stricken out of the bill before it was passed. Concerning this the Tribune says:

"The legislature and Tanner have done their worst. The boodle council is preparing to do its worst. Tuesday night Alderman Walker offered a rule providing that when an ordinance is introduced extending an existing street car franchise no action shall be taken on it within thirty days. This is to give the people a chance to be heard—the chance they would have had if the referendum clause had not been stricken out of the Allen bill.

But though the legislature has sold out the city and a treacherous governor has betrayed it, and although a venal council is already preparing to barter public rights for private gain, those citizens who have fought so long against Yerkes and his imps should not give up the fight now.

All is not lost. Something remains to be done before Yerkes gets the lease of 700 miles of city streets for half a century. The council has not acted yet. The people must rally and see to it that it does not act."

But the council will act and Yerkes will win. Chicagoans and the Tribune are in an excellent position to appreciate the beauties of the referendum, so long advocated by the populist party.

The Tribune abused Altgeld in the last campaign in every way it possibly could, and supported the present governor, Tanner. Comparing Tanner with Altgeld it now says:

"Gov. Tanner has done something which on his election day no one would have deemed possible. He has made Chicagoans deplore the defeat of Altgeld as a choice of evils. Violent, revolutionary as he was, and shady in his official actions as he was, he never would have signed the Allen bill; he would rather have lost his right hand. Altgeld two years ago vetoed street railway measures which were not one tenth part as offensive as the Allen bill which this legislature has corruptly passed. He was not afraid to give his reasons for doing so. Governor Tanner has signed the rascally Allen bill in defiance of the protests of the whole mass of the people of Chicago, but has not ventured as yet to give his reasons for doing so, if he has any he dare exhibit to the light."

The citizens of Chicago and Illinois should follow the example set by the citizens of Nebraska and vote the entire republican gang out of office and elect populists to take their places.

The citizens of Illinois are complaining bitterly at Gov. Tanner and the last legislature. They deserve no sympathy for they deposited the ballots that substituted Tanner for Altgeld.

Senator Tillman of South Carolina when discussing the tariff bill said, "And I say plainly, if we are to have this stealing I want my share for South Carolina." Since that time the republican papers have been claiming that Tillman has been converted to the theory of protection. We are aware that the prevailing method among republicans in making tariff converts is to offer to divide the swag, but very few of the recipients are so frank in admitting it as Tillman was. We think they will have to try again before they make a very ardent protectionist out of Mr. Tillman. He is only "forging on the enemy" by compelling them to divide the benefits of their iniquitous legislation.

Bixby in the Journal says: "A man never knows how many staunch friends he has until he gets in trouble and needs their kindly offices."

We presume that Bartley and Moore can testify to the truth of that statement, as they think back over the kindly acts and favors which they have shown to the State Journal and now read in its columns its cryings for their blood. The Journal has suddenly been seized with a spasm of honesty, and will sacrifice any of its past political friends in the effort to have the republican party returned to power in order that it may practice again its nefarious schemes of public plunder and robbery. The Journal company has fattened on the dishonesty of republican officials and now in their time of need it deserts them. Ingratitude is the basest of crimes.

In the month of April last year the sugar trust imported 388,381,830 pounds of raw sugar. In the month of April this year it imported 773,527,477 pounds. In May last year the trust imported 544,106,452 pounds. In May of this year its importations were 790,324,053 pounds in the two months. The importations were made to avoid the payment of the small revenue duty on raw sugar. The duty allowed in the schedule just passed by the senate is about 91 cents per hundred pounds and on the six hundred and thirty one million and odd pounds of sugar which have been imported during the last two months over and above the amount usually imported would net the trust a profit of \$5,745,395.25 for their two month's speculation. The sugar trust was operating on a "sure thing." They owned the tariff committee and a majority of the senate and knew they owned them. The trust can afford to double or treble its contribution to the republican campaign fund for the purpose of "maintaining our credit abroad" and preserving the existing gold standard and other existing conditions.

McKinley seems to have fallen into Cleveland's practices very easy. While he does not fish he spends his time bonking, and such work, that does not help the Cubans whatever. His mind is not on the Cuban question as much since the campaign of last fall as it was then. He has even forgot the plank of his platform that touches upon that question.—Red Cloud Nation.

If we are to have annexation, why not liberate Cuba and begin the policy by annexing Cuba. Cuba is worth as much to the United States as half a dozen Hawaii, whether considered in a commercial or military manner. Its products are greater and more valuable, its people more nearly civilized, and from a military point of view Cuba commands the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico. The arguments favorable for the annexation of Hawaii apply with three times greater force in the case of Cuba. It is practically a part of this continent, and is inhabited by people already familiar with our form of government. As a national policy annexation is bad, but the horrible war of extermination now being carried on by Spain in the island of Cuba would justify almost any kind of action by this government, calculated to put a stop to the horrible butcheries.

The great republican dailies of the United States are almost unanimous in their denunciation of the proposition to tax inheritances. It is well known that the wealthy do not pay their fair share of taxes for the support of the government. The proposed inheritance tax would serve in a small degree to equalize the burden. It is certainly a just tax. It can be easily and inexpensively collected through the probate courts. It will yield a large amount of revenue, as a little study of the following figures will show. Among the great estates that would sometime be required to pay this tax, there are 200 persons worth \$20,000,000 each—\$4,000,000,000.

There are 400 persons worth \$10,000,000 each—\$4,000,000,000.

There are 1,000 persons worth \$5,000,000 each—\$5,000,000,000.

There are 2,000 persons worth \$2,500,000 each—\$5,000,000,000.

There are 6,000 persons worth \$1,000,000 each—\$6,000,000,000.

Twenty-four billion dollars owned by 9,600 persons.

There are 15,000 people who own \$500,000 each, making \$7,500,000,000.

There are 24,000 people who own \$1,500,000,000, or more than one-half of the wealth of the United States. Can anyone give a reason why this wealth should not bear a part of the burden of the expense of government? If it cannot be taxed, by an income tax, while the men who control it are alive, why not tax it after they are dead? It certainly ought to be taxed.

THE NEBRASKA PENITENTIARY.

The special correspondent for the Chicago Record at Lincoln, Nebraska, who ever he may be, should be awarded the "liar's belt." He has written an article, more than a column in length, for the Chicago Record in which there is less truth than in any article of the same length ever published. The first sentence of the article is as follows: "Nebraska has something like 1400 desperadoes and healthy convicts that the state authorities are anxious to know what to do with." The next paragraph reads: "This extraordinary condition (1400 idle convicts) of affairs is one of the consequences of the views of the late populist legislature on the subject of political economy. The populist leaders were of the opinion that the penitentiary should be self-supporting. They so resolved and seemed to think that settled it, for all appropriations for the support of the penitentiary, with the exception of a small item for salaries of employes, was cut off." The article continues in the same untruthful manner to the close.

The exact facts in the case as learned from an interview with Governor Holcomb and Warden Leidigh and the records of the penitentiary show, first that instead of 1400 convicts there are only 329. Of the 329 there are 165 that have regular and steady employment in the workshops and manufacturing institutions inside the penitentiary walls, 83 are employed in operating the penitentiary at such work as cooking, cleaning, mending, etc.; 9 are females, 7 are in the hospital; 15 are too old, crippled or otherwise disabled; 50 unemployed. The fifty that are classed as unemployed are those that the warden would lease to a responsible contractor at a reasonable figure. The warden has furnished them work most of the time in repairing the penitentiary building, or on the farm, gardening or attending to the live stock. Last winter he had them put up a large quantity of ice for the use of the prison and the state is paying no ice bill as has been customary under all preceding administrations. The next statement of the Record's correspondent, that the last legislature made no appropriation except for salaries is also false. It is true that the appropriation made was \$40,000 less than the amount usually appropriated by republican legislatures. It has been customary to appropriate \$100,000. Warden Leidigh asked and received \$60,000, or 40 per cent less than preceding managements had received. He is and has conducted the penitentiary entirely within the appropriations made by the legislature. He has turned into the state treasury since January 1st, 1897, \$5,790. The appropriation made by the legislature is equal to \$2,500 per month and Warden Leidigh has not allowed the expenses to exceed that amount at any time.

Some of the contracts that were made before the change in administration are not as advantageous as they should be. They will be cancelled, and new contracts at a better price will be made as soon as possible.

Governor Holcomb says the provisions made by the last legislature for the support of the penitentiary are ample for its maintenance as it is now conducted, and if satisfactory contracts can be made, or a part of the prisoners put to work on the state's account, as is believed can be done in a short time, there will be a very satisfactory surplus to turn back to the treasury at the end of the biennium.

The figures show that the penitentiary is being conducted at this time with at least \$2000 per month less expense to the taxpayers of the state than ever before.

The discipline at the penitentiary is good. The prisoners are satisfied. Health and Sanitary provisions were never better.

The Chicago Record should devote more of its space to exposing the corrupt and vicious acts of the last legislature and the governor of the state of Illinois, and tell the truth about Nebraska, that the populist legislature and the present populist administration are the best the state of Nebraska ever had. Explain to the people that the legislature of Illinois appropriated more money and passed more corrupt acts than any legislature in the history of the state; that the legislature in Nebraska made ample provisions for the care of all the state institutions with about half a million of dollars less than the preceding administration. Tell them that the greatest defaulter in the history of the state, the republican ex-treasurer, J. S. Bartley, has been prosecuted and convicted under the present administration. Tell them that although there have been many defaulting state officials that Bartley is the first that was ever convicted. Tell them that there are other cases pending and that more convictions will follow. Tell them that two years ago state warrants were worth 93 cents, but that under the present populist administration, despite the hatred and prejudice existing in the east, they are worth their face in gold. Tell the truth and deserve the respect of your readers.

The earnings of the tobacco trust for the year just closed foot up to \$3,593,173. All of the trusts contributed to the McKinley campaign fund, and they deserve to be prosperous. The Dingley bill will see that their prosperity does not grow less.

BRYAN'S REPLY.

The first test of intrinsic value was the pose of the last campaign. Mr. Bryan illustrates it with a story. Mr. Sound money meets Mr. Popocrat and says, Pop, look here. I have \$100 in gold, \$100 in silver and \$100 in paper in my house. House burns down. Paper is entirely gone. Silver is worth \$50 but gold is worth \$100. Gold is the best money. How do you get around that? Popocrat answers: "I go out fishing on the sea, with \$100 in gold, \$100 in silver and \$100 in paper. Boat turns over. Gold goes to the bottom. Silver goes to the bottom. Paper floats. Paper is best money." One illustration is as good as the other. Money was not made to burn except by tramp millionaires like Berry, and only fools will go fishing with anything in the boat except tackle, bait and Kentucky refreshments.—Published by the St. Louis Journal.

FREE EMPLOYMENT.

The bureau of labor have more calls for girls to do general house work than they have applications for such positions. If there are any who are out of employment and desire a position they can secure it by addressing the labor commissioner. There is also more demand for stenographers and typewriters, and for farm hands than there are applicants. Anyone who is out of employment and desires work should address Hon. S. J. Kent, labor commissioner, Lincoln, Nebraska, giving qualifications and particulars of the kind of work required. All information is furnished absolutely FREE. It is a state bureau and there are no charges, to either the applicant or the employer. Those desiring help of any kind should write the bureau for information and lists of applicants.

The expenses of the government of the United States has been increasing very rapidly in the past twenty years. The per capita expense of conducting the government in 1876 was \$7.24. Last year it had risen to \$8.22. Our population has increased very rapidly but the expense of the government has increased at a greater rate. This may be accounted for in a measure by our system of indirect taxation. The people do not pay their taxes direct to the government and consequently have no knowledge of the enormity of the amount. Taxes are levied upon the goods they buy, upon tobacco, cigars, playing cards and the like, in the form of internal revenue tax and upon woolen clothing, sugar and lumber, in the form of tariff taxation. It is certainly unjust to tax men according to the amount of food and clothing they consume, for it makes the poor man pay as much or more than the wealthy man. The one that works eats more and wears out more clothing than the one who is idle. If taxation was direct, if men paid money according to the amount of property they own, for the support of the government as they do for state, county, municipal and school taxes, it would be a more just and equitable system of taxation. They would have a better idea of the amount it requires to run the government and would more carefully scrutinize and criticize extravagant appropriations made by congress. Congress would fear public sentiment and would be more conservative and economical in its appropriations. The present system is unjust and leads to extravagance.

STATE COMMITTEE MEETING.

Chairman J. H. Edmisten has called a meeting of the state central committee to be held in Lincoln July 8th. We publish the call at the head of our columns. The chairman and secretary are anxious to have a full attendance by the members of the committee. He especially urges upon every member the importance of attending this very important meeting. Those who cannot attend are expected to write a letter giving their reasons for not attending and stating their views as to the date and place at which the coming state convention should be held. Those who do not attend must not complain at any action the committee may see fit to take concerning the state convention or any other action in connection with the affairs of the party.

It is contended by administration organs that Hawaii should be annexed because it is a splendid winter resort. What a convenience it will be for the coal miners of Pennsylvania, Illinois and Iowa, the factory hands of the east and the farmers and merchants of the whole country to have such a resort, only 2,100 miles from San Francisco, in which to spend their superfluous time and cash. This would certainly supply a long felt want of the masses.—St. Louis Journal.

The republican party promised the American people that as soon as the news of McKinley's election was flashed over the telegraphic wires, that confidence would be restored, business would revive, money would circulate, the mills would open, there would be work for the unemployed, wages would increase, international bi-metalism would be assured, our credit would be preserved, the people prosperous, quiet, and contented.

It seems that the republican party was considerably mistaken. Many of the people were fooled by their pledges and promises, others were frightened at their cries of danger. In 1900 the American people will not be so easily fooled or humbugged. It will be a different story then—but it won't go.

AN UNTIRING WORKER.

We worked through spring and winter, Through summer and through fall; But the mortgage worked the hardest And the steadiest of all.

It worked on nights and Sundays, It worked each holiday; It settled down among us, And it never went away.

The rust and blight were with us Sometimes and sometimes not, The dark-browed, scowling mortgage Was forever on the spot.

The weevil and the outworm They went as well as came; The mortgage stayed forever, Eating hearty all the same.

It nailed up every window, Stood guard at every door, And happiness and sunshine Made their home with us no more.

Till with failing crops and sickness We got stalled upon the grade, And then came a day upon us When the interest was not paid.

And there came a sharp foreclosure, And I kind of lost my hold, And grew weary and discouraged, And the farm was cheaply sold.

The children left and scattered, When they hardly yet were grown; My wife she pined and perished, And I found myself alone.

What she died of was a "mystery!" And the doctors never knew; But I knew she died of mortgage, As well as I wanted to.

If to trace a hidden sorrow Were within the doctors' art, They'd have found a mortgage lying On the woman's broken heart.

Worm and beetle, drought and tempest, On a farmer's land may fall, But for first-class ruination Trust a mortgage 'gainst them all.

—Coming Nation.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

In this column we will publish communications of a worthy and suitable character, received from subscribers to this paper. No communication should contain more than 200 words. Manuscript will not be returned.

By the Connection Route.

GILTNER, NEB., June 14, 1897. EDITOR INDEPENDENT:—Find enclosed postoffice order for \$1.25 as pay for renewal for the INDEPENDENT and "The New Time" (B. O. Flowers' paper.) I would not know how to get along without such papers.

The gold standard avalanche is sweeping the homes of industrious Americans into the valley of bankruptcy so fast that the people are becoming alarmed. It seems as though they have to be knocked down to get a lick of sense. Why don't the money oligarchy demand immediate payment of mortgages, instead of keeping the people in suspense trying to disentangle themselves from the octopus? They will own all eventually anyway, by the way of the contractor. (The poor cowardly dupes.) Yours to the finish,

B. F. McDANNELL.

When bilious or constive, eat a Cascara candy cathartic, cure guaranteed, 10c 25c

The Dingley bill was a tariff for protection with incidental robbery. The Senate committee changed it to a tariff for robbery with incidental protection.—New York World.

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