

Nebraska 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.

McKinley promised to settle the Cuban question in short order. Bryan leads the democrats, Allen rules the pops, Thurston shouts for the republicans. Nebraska owns them all.

The state treasurer has just issued a call for \$50,000 of general fund warrants for July 6. Meserve keeps the money moving.

The Queen lives and grows fat upon the millions of tribute levied from her starving subjects in India and Ireland. God save the Queen.

Treasurer Meserve has just completed the distribution of the largest appropriation of school moneys ever distributed in the history of the state.

You will find the date at which your subscription expired marked on this issue of this paper. It is an invitation to you to make a payment. Will you accept it?

If you are in arrears for subscription you will find the date of expiration marked on your paper or on the wrapper. Please take notice and make a payment as soon as convenient.

Oil Rockefeller is preparing to make another big donation to the Baptists. He has laid off more than 1000 hands at Cleveland, Ohio. He will restrict production and increase the price of the oil he has on hand.

Why not send a dollar to C.E. Kittinger, Powell, South Dakota, for rennets and instruction in home cheese making? You can make three pounds of cheese in place of one pound of butter. Regular factory cheese, the kind made, and any woman can do the work while attending household duties. No extra apparatus needed.

The agitation in favor of a many million dollar residence for the president is being continued by the aristocracy of New York and Washington. As long as the common people pay the taxes why should it not be built? If the money was to be raised by means of an income tax they would not be in nearly such a rush to have the palace constructed.

Yes, if the pops carried Nebraska the credit of the state would be ruined, capital would be withdrawn. The pops carried Nebraska. Phil Armour has decided to build a million dollar packing house at Omaha. A sugar beet factory will be constructed at Omaha and two more will be located in other parts of the state. State warrants have risen seven cents on the dollar. Yes, indeed, capital is afraid of the credit of Nebraska under populist rule.

Another scheme for the enrichment of the already too rich is being agitated. It is the purchase of the island of Cuba by a syndicate, the amount of money necessary \$400,000,000 to be obtained by an issue of 3 per cent bonds on which the United States is security. It is alleged that the interest of this debt could be paid out of the custom receipts at Havana. The whole thing is but a repetition of the Pacific railroad deal and is being engineered by the sugar trust.

The morning paper has probably the worst case of Bryanphobia that we know of, and this occasionally leads it into ludicrous breaks. Last Saturday Mr. Bryan was down to the Beatrice Chautauque, and this is the way the Journal headlines read: "Bryan Cordially Received, but Rain Keeps Away the Crowd." Then down in the article it says: "When he began speaking at 2 o'clock the tabernacle was filled and many were standing, probably upwards of 5,000 people being within his hearing before he closed."—Lincoln Evening News (Rep.)

ECONOMY IN LITTLE THINGS.

There is a prevailing idea that state, county and municipal officials are uniformly extravagant in the use of office supplies and materials furnished at public expense. As a rule this has been true in the past. Office furniture and fixtures, stationery and office supplies have been purchased without regard to quantity or cost, and have been considered and used as legitimate spoils for those who were on friendly terms with the officials. Large quantities of expensive printing, blanks, books, stationery and the like, have frequently been purchased by an officer just before his term expired. His successor in office would not and could not use it to advantage for the reason that it carried the name of the preceding official and his deputy. When considered singly such small extravagances are unimportant, but when the total amount squandered in this way is considered it becomes an important item in the state's expenses.

Business men do not conduct their business in this manner and why should the state's officials, its business men, be less attentive to the interests of the state and taxpayers? There is no reason why a state official should have the furniture for his office specially constructed at an enormous expense, or why he should purchase office supplies at three or four times the price usually paid by first class business men. It is economy in little things that helps to swell the business man's dividends. Economy in little things will help to strengthen the credit of the state.

The extravagant system that has been practiced in the past should be avoided by the present administration. State officers, and officers of institutions should practice economy. They will find that "Jeffersonian simplicity" will be as popular in practice as in theory.

CUBA, BUT NOT HAWAII.

There are many reasons why we favor the freedom and annexation of Cuba. It is a part of the North American continent and naturally belongs to the United States. It commands the entrance to the gulf of Mexico in the case of foreign war. Spain is powerless to govern the island and by her brutal war of extermination has paved the way for interference by the United States and the ultimate freedom and annexation of the island. The American people are nearly unanimous in their support of such a course. They favor the interference in Cuba's behalf by the government as a nation, and not as a cat's paw to turn the island over to the sugar trust syndicate. If the present administration does not dispose of the Cuban question and procure liberty for the Cubans, the Cuban question will depose the administration and elect another that has the courage to speak out plainly the will of the American people.

The reasons for the annexation of Cuba does not apply in the case of Hawaii. The island is not a part of this continent. Instead of being in a position to help to defend our coast it is located where it will require an increase in our navy to protect it. Its government would be expensive. It is already greatly in debt. Americans have \$23,000,000 invested but Englishmen have \$500,000,000 of Hawaiian securities. Its a good thing to let alone.

PROTECT THE FARMER.

By all means let the American farmer be protected. The much talked of "infant industries" are now asleep if boarded up windows and smokless chimneys are any index; so this is a good time for our legislators, who seem to have banded themselves together into a society for the prevention of the passage of some laws, to turn their attention to the farmer.

Realizing this they are going to protect wheat. Think of that ye grunblers who have asserted that the farmer was not a pet with the legislator, who hinted that the biennial vote crop was the only thing that the farmer raised in which the politician took an interest. These assertions are now disproved for they are about to put an import tax on wheat, the American farmer's chief crop. Of course no wheat is imported and hence no tax can be collected, while vast amounts are exported, but that doesn't matter, they think.

It is a busy season and the farmer may not have time to think of this. Won't it be fine to hear the stumporator, with inflated chest and fire eye, tell how he stood firm and forced the law makers to put a tariff on wheat? He will not give the details of how he also put from 10 to 50 per cent on to the price of everything under heaven that the farmer consumes. The farmers will listen with open mouthed interest and give him their votes.

On page two will be an found an article on public ownership of street railways, water works, gas and electric lighting plants by the city of Glasgow in Scotland. The statements contained in the article are reliable and it should be carefully read. It is a practical demonstration of the feasibility of the populist theory of public ownership of public utilities. There are cities in Nebraska that would profit greatly by following the example set by the Scotchmen of Glasgow.

If your subscription has expired you will find the date of expiration marked on this week's issue either on the paper or on the wrapper. Examine it carefully and pay as soon as possible.

The York Times says: "Every body who knows anything at all about 'it' can point out numerous cases where men who are generally known to be dishonest and who were self confessed criminals have been nominated by the pops and elected to important offices." Is that so? Now that is really too bad. In the same issue the Times says: The populist party is based upon dishonesty and built up by deceit and fraud and yet its papers have the brazen effrontery to accuse the republican party of being dishonest." Horrible! The man who would even intimate that the republican party is not the pink of honesty must be base indeed! For twenty-five years it has been in power in Nebraska and its record is as white as the driven snow. That anyone should be so lost to decency as to say anything to mar such a record is cruel indeed.

Ingratitude is the worst of all sins, and the republican party has been so careful to protect and care for the interests of the people of Nebraska, and now, not to have its work appreciated, how cruel! how cruel! It does seem that after the republican party has stolen everything in sight and been careful at it, after it has put to shame the good people who trusted it, its newspapers in this state would bow their heads to the very dust. Some of them have, but others which are supposed to have shared in the distribution of the stolen funds, in order to hide their tracks, keep shouting "stop thief" at the populists who have brought the credit of the state back to par once more. Sometimes a man is honestly mistaken, but there can be no mistake as to who are the thieves in Nebraska, and a man who tries to throw guilt on innocent parties must surely be one of the thieves.

At the close of the war the public debt was \$2,983,000,000. At that time it would have required about 1,000,000,000 bushels of wheat to settle the debt.

We have paid on the principal of the debt more than \$1,000,000,000. At the present prices it would require nearly 2,000,000,000 bushels of wheat to pay the debt as it stands now. What is true in the case of wheat is true of cotton, corn and every other staple product. The dollars have increased in value until they are worth more than twice as much of the products of labor as they were at the close of the war and time of making the debt. The farmers, mechanics and wealth producers must perform twice as much labor to pay the public debt now as would have been required at the close of the war, notwithstanding the enormous amount that has already been paid. It is all due to the system of contraction of the currency and increasing the value of the "honest dollar" that has been followed persistently since the rebellion. Shall the system be continued?

Someone very much interested in the success of the populist party has mailed a good many thousand copies of the Bangor Daily Commercial, a large 16 page gold standard newspaper published at Bangor, Maine, to all of the populist papers and prominent populists in the United States. An examination of the copy at hand reveals nothing of interest to populists except a double column article on the first page advocating Wharton Barker as the proper man to lead the middle-of-the-road populists in 1900. The gold standard Commercial is very much interested in the action of the next populist national convention. It has the privilege of offering all the advice it thinks proper to the populist party, but it will learn in time that the populist party is composed of men who have ideas of their own—of men who are not seeking advice from the gold standard press of the country. Don't worry yourself Mr. Commercial, we will nominate the right man in 1900 without the advice or consent of any gold standard newspaper on earth.

There are some papers advocating the organization of a new political party. The Philadelphia American in advocating such a course says, "the new party will embrace the cardinal tenets of populism but it objects to the name. Nonsense. Who can defend a course that puts a name above principle? The populist party is thoroughly organized in every state in the union. Its principles are eternal. Why abandon the labors of a decade of organization and equipment simply to change a name? The name is good enough. It is your own old party pride and prejudices that you are harboring in your soul. If the principles of the populist party are right have the courage and manhood to step out boldly beneath its banner and help to defend it. If its principles are wrong, say so, and point out wherein they are wrong. Be honest with your conscience.

The republican press of the state continues to write in a boastful and "holier than thou" tone pretending that the members of that party are made of better clay than the rest of mankind.

Query—Did you ever see a big headed ignoramus blow-hard-darkey who claimed to be a populist? To what party does that class of fellows belong?

Senator W. V. Allen has introduced a bill in the Senate providing that the government shall own and supply all fixtures necessary in all of the post-offices of the United States.

CONGRESS IN SESSION.

Speaker Reed takes the chair and says: "I will please come to order. I don't believe in the efficiency of prayer, so I will dispense with it to-day. The records of the preceding meeting are considered read and approved. There is no unfinished business on hand, and even if there were I do not consider myself a quorum at this stage of the game. Did I hear a motion to adjourn? Well, I should remark, for my hearing is very acute, and when it comes to adjourning I am a quorum from Quorumville. If I am in favor of adjourning I will please signify it by saying 'aye.' If I am opposed I don't know myself. I have it. I stand adjourned." is the way the Memphis Appeal describes a session of the present congress.

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 yecommittee. 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.

A FLIMSY DEFENSE.

The attorneys for J. S. Bartley claim to have made an important discovery. They allege that the verdict of the jury is defective. In writing up the verdict the foreman of the jury in placing the amount of the embezzlement wrote it in figures as follows: \$15188.445 instead of \$151,884.45 as it should have been. Concerning this error Bartley's attorneys say in their bill of exceptions: "The verdict of the jury was and is incomplete, uncertain and indefinite, and does not comply with the express provisions of the statute and is insufficient to warrant the rendition of any judgment thereon."

As everyone knows when the jury returned with their verdict it was read to them in their presence as one hundred and fifty-one thousand, eight hundred and eighty four dollars and forty five cents, and each and every one of the jurors was asked, "was this and is this your verdict in this case," to which they all replied in the affirmative. It was their verdict and any attempt to construe it otherwise is an attempt to pervert justice by deceit and the most contemptible pettifoggery imaginable. Who knows but what the period which improperly appears between the 8 and 4 was put there by some of Bartley's friends or by his attorneys? Attorneys that would attempt to escape upon such a pretense would be guilty of making the change if they had the opportunity. The intent of the jury was plain and the supreme court will not dare to disturb a verdict upon such a flimsy excuse.

While the Omaha Bee thinks that a defaulting public official makes a good mayor for Omaha, and advocates many other strange things, yet it seems to have experienced a deep seated conviction that the future prosperity of the republican party in Nebraska depends largely upon the amount of assistance the republican press lends to the present administration in the prosecution of that republican ex-treasurer, J. S. Bartley. The conversion of the Bee has been so thorough that we can entirely concur in the advice which it extends to that worthy republican official the present clerk of the supreme court. The Bee says:

The attorneys of Ex-treasurer Bartley are about to present a bond for the release of the convicted embezzler until the supreme court shall have passed upon the appeal in his behalf for a new trial. In view of the fact that the Ex-treasurer embezzled more than half a million dollars and was sentenced to twenty years penal servitude, the bond for \$125,000 is very reasonable. It is very doubtful, however, whether any responsible citizen of Nebraska, or any considerable number of responsible men who are able to qualify on Bartley's bail bond for \$125,000, will assume the responsibility. We make bold to predict that Bartley if set free, will not be in the state of Nebraska or within the reach of the law officers when the supreme court passes upon his appeal. But even if his prompt appearance was assured, it is the duty of the clerk of the supreme court to scrutinize and schedule his bail bond as is customary in the courts of Illinois. Bartley must not be set free on a straw bail bond.

State Auditor Cornell has just turned over to Treasurer Meserve \$6,100 of fees collected by him. This makes a total of \$13,100 which the auditor has turned over to the state treasurer since January 7, 1897. Treasurer Meserve has used the money in calling general fund warrants and saving the state the interest which they would otherwise be drawing. He has just issued a call for \$50,000 worth for July 6. Warrants on the general fund at the close of Bartley's term run 21 months before payment, Meserve has made so many calls that the time which warrants draw interest has been reduced to 18 months. Quite a difference in the management of these two offices from that of their predecessors.

The state of Nebraska has some curious business methods. At present there are outstanding about \$12,000 of warrants against the Feeble Minded fund of the state. These warrants have been running for 4 years and they draw 7 per cent interest. The accumulated interest amounts to about one-third of the principal. Treasurer Meserve called \$4,000 worth in May and is now ready to issue a call for \$3,000 more. There has been a tax levy to pay these warrants but it has been very slow of collection. The law will not permit the treasurer to take money from another fund to take up these warrants and the only course that is left for the treasurer is to insist upon the collection of the delinquent taxes in order that he may call in these warrants and save the state the exorbitant rate of interest. Mr. Meserve has the matter in hand and is crowding it as fast as possible.

In 1894 D. Clem Deaves was chairman of the Populist state central committee. He said in a speech at Hastings, "if we are given power we will enforce the laws, we will open up the books and disclose the frauds against the state and punish the guilty parties." The party is now fulfilling the promise.

A PERNICIOUS LOBBY.

In the senate last week Senator Hale of Maine proposed an amendment to the rule which allows ex-senators the privileges of the floor of the senate. In suggesting the amendment he said: "The purpose of the proposed amendment is to prevent ex-senators from enjoying the privileges of the floor of the senate for the purpose of urging or opposing claims or bills in which they are employed as attorneys."

Such a rule would afford a little relief from one of the greatest evils known to legislation. But we quite agree with Senator Allen in his suggestion to Senator Hale. Allen stated that lobbyists crowd the corridors and galleries like crows in the trees," and turning to Senator Hale inquired "why not make it a crime covering all lobbyists?"

At one time Senator Allen introduced a bill making it a crime to come on the capital grounds with a view to lobbying for pending measures. It was at the time when the pooling bill was before the senate and lobbyists were on hand from all parts of the country. Senator Allen pushed the bill vigorously but the lobby, corporation senators and ex-senators combined were too much for him. The bill was indefinitely postponed. Whenever senators complain of the annoyance of the lobby he generally suggests to them the excellent features contained in his dead bill.

The legislative investigating committee have adjourned until July 8, when work will be resumed. Up to July 1st the committee has expended less than \$2,500 of the \$10,000 appropriated. The committee furnished the expert testimony and much valuable information that was used by Attorney-general Smyth in the Bartley trial. They are working on ex-Auditor Moore's accounts at the present time and will be prepared to show in detail all of his transactions during his term of office. In these two offices the committee is guided largely by the advice of the attorney-general, and the work which they are doing will prove very valuable in the coming criminal prosecutions and in the civil suits against the bondmen to recover the stolen money.

John Sherman says "The currency question is not to be decided at this session. No one is ready to decide it." In all probability John is correct. The republican party dares not to decide it. The people will settle that question in 1900 without waiting for the advice or consent of the republican party.

The man who wants to enjoy life should sit up at night and watch the corn grow.

Hon. C. F. Wheeler who is a member of the legislative investigating committee has been in Kearney the past week going through the accounts of ex-Superintendent Malleau. He has returned to Lincoln and will make his report to the committee. He would not give out anything for publication before he made his report to the committee.

THE NEBRASKA HEN.

(Imported.) We have read of Maud on a summer day. Who raked, barefooted, the new-mown hay. We have read of the maid in the early morn. Who milked the cow with the crumpled horn. And we've read the lays that the poets sing. Of the rustling corn and the flowers of spring. List of all the lays of "maude or pen. There's naught like the lay of the Nebraska hen. Long, long before Maud rakes her hay. The Nebraska hen began to lay. And ere the milkmaid stirred a pace. The hen is up and has dropped her egg. The corn must rustle, and the flowers spring. If they hold their own with the forward ring. If Maud is needing a hat and gown. She doesn't bustle her hay to town. She goes to town and obtains her suit. With a basketful of her fresh hen fruit. If the milkmaid's bean makes a Sunday call. She doesn't feed him on milk at all. But works up eggs in a custard pie. And stuffs him full of chicken fry. And when the old man wants a horn. Does he take the druzglet a load of corn? Not much! He simply robs a nest. And to town he goes—you know the rest. He lingers there and talks, perchance. Of true reform and correct-fa-nance. While his poor wife stays at home and sews. But is saved from want by these same fowls. For while her husband lingers there. She watches the cackling hens with care. And gathers eggs, and the eggs she'll hide. Till she saves enough to stem the tide. Then haul, all hail to the Nebraska hen. The greatest blessing of all to men! Throw up your hats and make some howl. For the persevering barnyard fowl. Corn may be king, but it's plainly seen. The Nebraska hen is the Nebraska queen.

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.

T. E. Hall Vindicated.

Some three weeks ago A. K. Sears, at the instance of republican ringsters in Burt county brought charges that T. E. Hall, chairman of the populist board of supervisors, had defrauded the county out of some \$150.00 by illegal charges in mileage fees. A great howl went up from the six republican county newspapers and dispatches with flaming headlines appeared in the Omaha Bee and Lincoln Journal, relating how a populist had plundered the county. The charges dated back ten years when Mr. Hall served as a republican and his bills were audited by a republican county board. Mr. Hall since changed his politics and hence the howl. Last year a populist board was elected and Hall made its chairman. An investigation by two republican and one populist members disclosed that Mr. Hall's bills were straight and he was entitled to pay for 400 miles more than he ever put in his bill for. This is submitted merely to show the people away from home (who perhaps may never hear of it) that the whole change was for political hygeine and spite work. The republican "organs" came out last week as dumb as oysters on this subject. They seem to have no justice in their souls. Yours truly, WILL F. BREWSTER.

The board of education held a meeting last Monday evening to fix upon the amount of the tax levy for school purposes. For several years the levy has been 9 mills but the board decided to raise it to 10 mills. The revenue to support the Lincoln schools will be derived from the following sources: Ten mill levy.....\$53,000 Police court fines..... 600 Saloon licenses..... 35,000 State apportionment..... 14,000 Other licenses..... 2,000 Total.....\$104,600

Mrs. A. M. Edwards.

This lady has been appointed superintendent of the Nebraska Industrial Home at Milford. This is a case where unselfish ability has been awarded by Governor Holcomb. Mrs. Edwards has for a long time been interested in the work of this institution, working faithfully without remuneration. When, for economical reasons, it was thought best to change the superintendents, Mrs. Edwards was recommended by her associate managers for the place. The governor certainly made no mistake in the selection. There are but few women in the United States who have shown better executive ability, in her own business as well as that of the public. She was honored by a responsible appointment by the World's fair management at Chicago, as well as many others, until the people of Fremont feel a certain pride in this lady's ability. When she goes from among us to manage the institution we will feel our community has lost a good citizen, but we will have the knowledge that we have furnished the state a good, faithful and honest servant, and the unfortunates a true and faithful friend in the newly appointed superintendent.—Fremont Leader.

Adjutant General Barry and Major E. G. Fechet left for Chicago Tuesday to secure headquarters for Gov. Holcomb and his staff during the unveiling of the John A. Logan equestrian statue on July 22.

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