

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

Consolidation of "THE WEALTH MAKERS" and "LINCOLN INDEPENDENT."

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For Supreme Judge—JOHN J. SULLIVAN, Columbus For Regents—E. VON FORELL, Kearney, GEORGE F. KENOWER, Wisner.

The patriotic citizen will vote early.

It takes votes to elect a supreme judge. Do not fail to have yours counted. Put your X in the circle beneath the Cottage Home. It means less of injunction, more of justice.

Ex-president Harrison insists that the silver issue is dead. Wonder if he has read the returns from the election in his home city, Indianapolis, Indiana? The ex-president will now lift his hat to a Bryan democrat, the next mayor of the city of Indianapolis.

The Hon. Benjamin Harrison of Indianapolis should have made a few more of his gold standard speeches in that city and the republicans would not have succeeded in electing so much as an alderman. The ex-president should explain why his city endorsed Bryanism by electing a silver democrat, candidate on a silver platform, for mayor.

As usual Senator Allen is looking after the interests of Nebraska. As a member of the committee on Indian affairs he will make an effort to secure for the Trans-Mississippi Exposition a very complete exhibit of the governments management education and control of the Indians. The exhibit will include the entire development of the Indian from his conditions in savagery to his present civilized condition. If Senator Allen is successful in his efforts, the exhibit will be one of the most attractive and interesting features of the exposition.

During the administration of Chancellor Canfield a familiar sign was posted at all entrances to the University campus forbidding the circulation of advertising circulars or the conducting of any private business upon the University campus. Since then things have changed and there are "approved tutors" conducting private schools in almost every department of the University and are allowed to make "moderate charges" to the students for the approved instruction which they give them. In this way the sons and daughters of Nebraska parents are compelled to pay "moderate charges" for what the state furnishes and intended should be open and free to all.

There is an old adage which says that it takes a thief to detect a thief. Perhaps this explains why Governor Holcomb was unable to detect the defalcations of Joe Bartley. Of course if a republican had been chosen for governor he would have been able to detect the stealing. The people made a great mistake by not electing a thief to detect the other thieves, and taking chances on his reporting his findings. The stealing had been going on for a great many years and no republican governor would "tell" but the next one surely would have "peached on the gang" and told the people all about the stealings being made by his brother office holders. At least that is what the republican papers are claiming now.

D. Clem Deaver, book-keeper and steward for the institution for the deaf and dumb located at Omaha, has sent a check for \$16.40 to the state treasurer to be placed to the credit of the industrial fund of that institution. This is the first money ever paid into the state treasury from that institution. All of the earnings made in the industrial department will be forwarded to the state treasurer and deposited in this industrial fund to be used in paying the expenses of the institution. This is another example of the advantages to be derived from having the state and state institutions under the control of honest officials.

The directors of the Agricultural Experiment Station would find a field of very valuable investigation concerning the growth of tobacco in this state. There is little difference between the soil and climatic conditions in Nebraska and southern Wisconsin. In southern Wisconsin tobacco growing is one of the chief industries of the people. It turns one of Wisconsin's most valuable products for export. There is little doubt but that the growth of tobacco in this state would prove a valuable industry if the people were acquainted with the proper methods for growing, curing and preparing it for export or home manufacture. We suggest that the directors of the agricultural farm and station investigate the practicability of starting the industry in this state.

A REMARKABLE OPINION. In Judge Munger's order granting a temporary injunction against the enforcement of the stock yards bill passed by the last legislature occurs the following remarkable paragraph:

Fifth, our constitution provides that property shall not be damaged, as well as shall not be taken for public use, without compensation. If a street in front of a lot is graded and the consequence is that the rest of the property is decreased in a case of compensation. I am unable to see any difference between that case and where the legislature by its direct act reduces the earning capacity of property.

There is no need of taking farther testimony in the case if Judge Munger means what he says above. The case is already decided for the stock yards company and future legislatures may as well abandon the attempt to regulate charges there.

Suppose the stock yards company is making 100 per cent per annum on its investment. The legislature says that is too much and reduces its charges so that it shall make only 50 per cent hereafter. It has thereby "reduced the earning capacity" of the property and according to Judge Munger is bound to make compensation therefor. That is, the state must make good the earning capacity of the yards to the old rate of 100 per cent per annum. What monstrous perversion of justice is this, clothed with a life appointment, that speaks from a federal bench and denies the right of the state of Nebraska to protect its citizens from any degree of extortion at the hands of a corporation into whose nostrils it has breathed the breath of life, but has no power to control or regulate.

There has been loud complaint because the stock yards charged a dollar a bushel for corn, while outside it was selling at ten cents. Let the yards put corn up to five dollars a bushel and hay to forty dollars a ton and all shall still be helpless under Judge Munger's rule, for no reduction may be made without compensation.

Here is a practical public monopoly, through whose gates in the natural order of things the great bulk of the cattle, hogs and sheep of Nebraska must find a market. Private enterprise could not handle so vast a project. The people of Nebraska created by law a person big enough and strong enough to undertake it; gave this person legs to stand upon and arms to manipulate the business. From the very nature of the business there can be no competition. There is but one metropolitan stock market in Nebraska and there can be but one stock yard there. Nebraska stock must seek a market there or find it outside of the state. And here comes a federal judge, a man who has lived thirty years in Nebraska and is generally esteemed as a capable and upright lawyer, who looks at a case like this through such a narrow slot in his legal casement that he can see no difference between the efforts of the people of Nebraska to fix reasonable rates for the charges of the being they have created to manage the stock yards at Omaha, and the case of paving a public street in front of a private citizen's residence. Both must be compensated. Is it any wonder people are losing faith in the courts?

WHERE THE MONEY GOES. The University of Nebraska is supported chiefly by direct taxation of the people of the state. It also receives nearly \$40,000 per year from the general government of the United States. It possesses a permanent endowment of 130,000 acres of land from which considerable revenue is derived. Including the special grants from the legislature there was expended during the past two years about \$320,000 and nearly as much will be spent during the two following years. For a long time the annual expenditures have exceeded \$100,000.

The university was opened in the fall of 1873 and hence has just completed twenty five years of active service. It has expended altogether not less than \$2,500,000. During its entire life the management of the institution has been in the hands of republican boards of regents, every member of which with perhaps three or four exceptions; belonged to the dominant party. For the past seven or eight years the entire policy of the school has been dictated by the late chairman of the republican state central committee, Chas. H. Morrill.

Now what have these republican regents and party bosses done for the farmers of Nebraska. Do we not all know that about the only industrial pursuits of this state are agriculture and stock raising? Let us bear this in mind while we examine the sources of the income of the University and see how this income has been diverted from its intended uses. According to the last biennial report of the regents the direct tax on the property of the state yields about \$65,000 per year. The permanent funds and lands will yield about \$42,000 and the general government of the United States furnishes about \$40,000 a year. Besides these sums the legislature last winter granted nearly \$40,000 out of the state general fund, and the previous legislature granted a large sum from the same fund. Of the above amounts, that granted by the United States government goes entirely to the Industrial College; two thirds of the revenue from the permanent fund belongs to the same college. Surely half of the amount raised by tax-

ation of an agricultural people should go to the same fund. This would give about \$110,000 per year for the use of the Industrial College.

Now in this state, industry is at least nine tenths agricultural. There would seem to be a considerable sum available for use in the agricultural college. With \$100,000 per year much ought to be possible in aiding farmers and stock raisers. How much do they get? Let us again consult the last report of the board of regents. Of the \$20,000 given by the United States specifically for industrial purposes for the year ending June 30th, 1895 only \$614.19 was used for agriculture including stock raising. Of the \$21,000 for the year 1896, \$201.78 was spent for agriculture including stock raising. Of the \$15,000 given by the United States government for the Agricultural Experiment Station for the year 1895, \$11,000 was used for salaries and labor. Much of the amount was paid to professors of pure science and scarcely more to men trained in agriculture or stock raising. The balance was for unskilled assistance. The following year a little less was paid for salaries and also a little less went to professors in other lines of work than agriculture.

Aside from the salary of the professor of agriculture, which has been paid out of the legislative grant, and the few hundred dollars of the special fund above referred to the agricultural and stock-raising interests of the state have had to depend upon the \$15,000 of the experiment station fund, and if anybody knows wherein even that expenditure has benefited these interests, he would confer a favor by pointing it out to an over credulous and long suffering people. It is true that the chancellor himself has sometimes given a lecture at harvest homes in which he tells us the origin of the terms "culture and agriculture" and intimates that we are a cultured i. e. a "plowed" people. But we can't help thinking that he is "working" us.

The farmers do not claim that all the income of the University should be spent on agriculture. But when less than half of the fund granted by the United States government for industrial education is expended in their interests and less than three per cent of the income from permanent endowment and state tax goes for this purpose it is time to look into affairs at headquarters. For industrial purposes the University has more than \$100,000 per year, and yet the present management is spending less than \$20,000 per year for the agricultural interests of the state. At some future time we may have something to say about the results obtained by this expenditure, though we admit they will be hard to discover.

ELECTIONS THIS FALL. There are several very important state elections this fall. There is more importance attached to the result than is generally supposed. In almost every instance the line of battle is drawn upon the issues of the campaign of last year. The forces are aligned in the same manner as they were in that memorable contest. The states of Ohio and Iowa elect governors for two years, Massachusetts elects a governor for one year, Virginia a governor for four years, Kentucky chooses a clerk for the court of appeals, Pennsylvania elects a treasurer and auditor, New York elects a chief judge and an assembly, and Colorado and Nebraska elect supreme judges. Kansas elects no state officers, but elects thirteen judges and county officers.

There are two United States senators to be chosen, one in Ohio and one in Maryland. In New York State the most interesting contest is the selection of a mayor for Greater New York City.

The results of these elections will be interesting. Almost every conceivable condition and alignment of political parties is presented. In some states the opposition to the republican party is completely united and working harmoniously, notably in Kansas and Nebraska. In Virginia the republicans have placed no ticket in the field. The democrats of that state unreservedly endorsed the Chicago platform and the election will be a mere formality. In Kentucky there are four contestants, the republicans, silver democrats, national democrats and populists. The chances of election are about equal between the republican, populist and silver democratic nominees. The populist candidate is Jo A. Parker and he is making a gallant fight with good chances for victory. In Iowa there are four tickets in the field, democrats and populists combined, republicans, national democrats, and a middle of the road populist nominee. The contest will be close between Fred E. White, the nominee of the silver democrats and populists, and L. Shaw the republican nominee. In Massachusetts there are three tickets in the field. The silver democrats nominated George Fred Williams for governor and the populists endorsed the nomination. The republicans named Roger Wolcott and endorsed the gold standard. The national democrats (gold standard) nominated Dr. William Everett. It is generally believed that Fred Williams will win though the contest will be close. He is one of the most active and energetic supporters of Mr. Bryan to be found in the east. In Kansas and Nebraska the nominees of the silver democrats and populists seem certain of election. A probable light vote among the farmers is all that will prevent their having large majorities.

MAYOR OF GREATER NEW YORK.

At the present time there are seven candidates for the mayoralty of Greater New York. Henry George is the nominee for the Bryan democracy and populists and has been endorsed by hundreds of clubs and societies. General B. F. Tracy is the nominee of the Tom Platte machine republicans supported by the McKinley administration. Seth Low, president of Columbia college and ex-mayor of Brooklyn, has been nominated by the "Citizens Union" on a platform declaring for purity and honesty in the management of municipal affairs. He has the support of a large element in the republican party opposed to boss rule and the machine politicians of New York City. Many of the wealthy men and corporations are also supporting Low, and as a result he is a formidable candidate. In the beginning of his campaign he had hoped to get the nomination of the regular machine republicans in addition to the nomination of the "Citizens Union," but in this he failed. Robert A. Van Wyck, a gold standard lawyer, who claims to have voted for Bryan, is the nominee of the Tammany democrats. With the Tammany organization behind him he becomes a formidable candidate. The platform on which he is making his campaign, ignores the Chicago platform and Bryan, but declares against trusts and other capitalistic combinations and in favor of the municipal ownership of public franchises. The victory apparently lies between these four, with apparently about equal chances for each. If Henry George and Seth Low's chances continue to improve, a combination may be effected between Tracy and Van Wyck. Tom Platt, who would much prefer the election of a Tammany democrat than to be turned down as the boss of the republican party by the election of Seth Low, and likewise the Tammany democrats would prefer the election of a machine republican like Tracy rather than lose their control and leadership of the democratic party which would be the result if Henry George should be elected. Tammany and Tom Platt are either capable of making any kind of a corrupt political deal to advance each others interests. Both organizations are out for spoils. The people of Greater New York are beginning to understand this and are turning rapidly to Henry George, who is making an active and energetic campaign single-handed. In 1886 as the candidates for the labor party for mayor Henry George received 68,000 votes, Abram S. Hewitt received 90,000 and Theodore Roosevelt received only 60,000. Mr. George was the second in the race at that time when the republican party was united. He is stronger today than ever before and the republican party is divided. Another feature of the situation in Mr. George's favor is the addition of the suburban cities. In general these cities are not so corrupt in their politics as the great city itself and in this Mr. George gains for it is from the better class from which he draws his support. The other candidates for mayor represent mere factions and are unimportant in the final result. They are Patrick Glendon, the mayor of Long Island, one of the cities to form a part of the greater city, who was nominated by a mass meeting of his friends and has no platform except that he declares against the corporations. Lucien Saul is the nominee of the social labor party and William T. Wardell, secretary of the Standard Oil Company, is the nominee of the prohibitionists. The national democrats held a convention but made no nomination. Their support will be about equally divided between Van Wyck and Seth Low.

In our issue of September 30th we said:

"The man who will stay away from the polls on election day and pick corn is not much of a patriot. He is of little value to his party or his country. He is the sort of man that it is necessary to draft in time of war."

To this Mr. A. A. Perry of Omaha, one of the chief lieutenants of Vandervoort takes exception. He wrote a letter to the Omaha Bee in which he frankly admitted that he cared so little for the privileges of the ballot and the sovereign right of an American citizen that it was his intention to "pick corn on election day." He boasts of having served in the civil war. For his services in the civil war we give him honor and credit, but in all sincerity we ask him if it is not better for a nation to settle its difficulties by ballots rather than by bullets? Mr. Perry doubtless is an honest citizen who loves his country. Suppose all honest citizens should follow his example and "pick corn on election day." It is plain that the ballots then cast would be only the ballots of the dishonest citizens. From ballots cast by dishonest citizens can anything except dishonest government result? It is a duty, almost a sacred duty, imposed upon each and every citizen of a free republic to study the principles of government and go to the polls on election day and cast his ballot for the preservation of his home his country and the welfare of future generations. He cannot do this by "picking corn on election day."

The man who loves his country and the liberties of its people will fight by ballot as long as there is hope and when that fails he will fight with bullets. In the election in this state this fall are involved important questions for settlement. The one party defends and protects judges in the use, abuse, and

enlargement of the powers of judges and government by injunction. The other stands committed to the policy that the people should rule, and the laws should be made by their duly accredited and chosen representatives assembled in legislative session. Which will you have? Turn out on election and answer with your ballots.

DELINQUENT SCHOOL LAND LESSEES.

The republican press of the state is having much to say concerning the action of the board of school lands and funds in cancelling the lease contracts of delinquent holders. They claim that as a result the state has lost a large sum of money. In fact the state has gained enormously by the action taken by the board. The Evening Call in Lincoln a typical republican sheet says:

"Laud Commissioner Wolfe, who is up in the northwest part of the state leasing school lands, sends word to the office that in Knox county he offered 8,626 acres for lease, and succeeded in leasing 8,346 acres, receiving a bonus amounting to \$836.80. He says that he has had the best luck in Knox county that he has met with during the leasing campaign, and received a larger bonus from that county than from any other. The books of the commissioner's office, however, show that there have been 14,860 acres of leased land marked cancelled in Knox county this year, the state thereby losing beyond redemption the delinquent rental, amounting to about \$8,916. A Knox county citizen who was in the city today gives it as his opinion that under the improved conditions and good prices for grain and live stock in his county, fully one quarter of the back rent would have been paid this year had the board not been so hasty in declaring the forfeitures before the farmers could realize the money on their products."

The leases which were cancelled in Knox county were several years delinquent. The parties holding the contracts had been fully notified of their delinquency and given every opportunity to pay the amount delinquent. They did not do so and the board very properly cancelled the leases and offered the land for re-lease to the highest bidder. This is the only course the state board can pursue. The average holder of school land contracts has very little other property. If he is allowed to get several years behind with his payments he will simply move off from the leased land where he is delinquent, and lease another piece in his wife's name or his son's name, or if he cannot do that he usually secures some young man to lease a tract and assign the lease to him, by which process he avoids the payment of the delinquent rental. Not only this but in all probability nine-tenths of the delinquent rentals would not have been paid if the board had not cancelled the leases. Men do not pay money to the state if there is any way they can avoid it. The only way the state can compel the payment of delinquent rentals is by cancelling the leases when payment is not made. The holders of school land leases are not required to pay taxes. They pay the interest rental instead. If it is fair to sell a man's farm for delinquent taxes, and it certainly is, it is equally fair to cancel a school land lease for the non-payment of the rental. Men who have farms to lease, lease them to the best advantage they can. Land Commissioner J. V. Wolfe as the agent for the people of the state of Nebraska is doing the same. He leases the land to the man who will pay the most.

The bids on supplies for state institutions awarded last week contained the significant line "1 per cent discount for cash." This is the first year this has appeared on bids for state supplies. The reason is that Treasurer Meserve is promptly taking up the warrants for state supplies with cash and so long as this is done the bidders are glad to discount their prices 1 per cent. Under the former administration state warrants were at a discount of 5 to 15 per cent and bidders made their prices to the state that much higher than they did to other purchasers.

In the city election in Chattanooga, Tenn., the silver democrats elected their candidates by overwhelming majorities. The city of Chattanooga has usually been republican and the result is a great victory for the silver democrats.

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STEALING.

Vouchers on file in the state auditor's office show in a measure the manner in which the late republican officials misappropriated and squandered the people's money. Voucher B6573 was drawn October 29, 1896, for \$169.60 in favor of Auditor Eugene Moore. The items contained in the bill in payment for which the money was drawn and which in no way were a proper charge against the state were as follows: Subscriptions Daily Call.....\$14 20 " Evening News..... 11 25 " State Journal..... 16 60 Capital City Record..... 1 00 Chicago Record..... 6 10 Tilden Citizen..... 2 00 Lincoln Courier..... 2 00 Enterprise..... 4 00 Oakland Republican..... 1 50 Commercial Review..... 1 00 The American (A. P. A.)..... 2 00

Total for subscriptions.....\$61 65 There is no argument by which the above can be shown to be a just claim against the state of Nebraska. The state is under no greater obligations to furnish an officer with newspapers than it is to furnish him with his clothing or household goods. The state in no way received any benefit from the above subscriptions.

Attached to the same voucher are bills for 125 copies of the State Journal of May 14, 1896, at five cents per copy, \$6.25 and 1,000 copies of the Daily Call of June 29, at five cents per copy, \$50. By what authority can a state official use state money to circulate favored political newspapers?

Other items in the bill are for State Journal want ads, a total of \$9.05. We could not understand what the state of Nebraska was so sadly in need of that it was necessary to patronize the "want ad" columns of the Journal so liberally. For April, 1896, the state paid the State Journal for want ads \$1.60. An examination of the files of the State Journal for April 2, 1896, shows the following want ad:

Wanted—A good girl for general house work. Mrs. Eugene Moore, 1304 L. St.

April 11 the Journal contains the following want ad: Wanted—A thoroughly competent girl for general house work; liberal wages paid. Call 1304 L. St.

For August the state paid the Journal Co. \$1.25 for the following want ad, which appeared in the Journal of August 3, 1896.

WANTED—A thoroughly competent girl for general housework; none other need apply. 1304 L. street.

For September the state paid \$1.25 for another want ad, which appeared in the issue of September 13, 1896:

WANTED—A competent girl for general housework; apply at once, 1304 L. St.

The state of Nebraska at its residence at 1304 L street was sadly in need of a girl to do general housework.

Other items in the bill were Box rent \$2.00. Express charges, 25c. Freight, 25c. Map of U. S., 50c. Repairing clock, \$2.50, and other small items which were proper and legitimate charges against the state of Nebraska. The voucher was approved by Secretary of State Joel A. Piper; the warrant was drawn by Mr. Moore and was paid by Treasurer Bartley.

To summarize: Of the \$169.60 paid to Mr. Moore on October 29, 1896, the following items were improper charges against the state: Subscriptions to papers.....\$ 61 65 Extra copies of papers..... 56 25 Want ads..... 9 05

Total steal.....\$126 95 There are many instances of this kind, but space forbids further details.

It would seem to be time to elect a judge of the supreme court who will put a stop to crookedness, theft, and irregularities of the character described above. Vote for John J. Sullivan. Put your X in the circle beneath the Cottage Home emblem.

The distillers have reorganized the whiskey trust with a capital of \$50,000,000. The present is the "age of trusts."

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