

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

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

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CUBA.

"I am a believer in human freedom. I do not believe God ever created one man to be the bondslave or the victim of another. The right of freedom is as universal as the human race, and wherever the rays of the sun shine they should fall on free men, regardless of color or condition."—Senator Allen in the United States Senate, December 8, 1897.

Since the supreme court sustained every contention made by Attorney General Smyth in the Bartley case, it would be interesting to know if the State Journal will admit that Mr. Smyth is a competent public official.

We predict for Hon. Eugene Moore the same pleasant trip that has been mapped out for Mr. Bartley. There are many exciting scenes by the wayside, but with a pilot like Attorney General Smyth he will be landed safely at the proper harbor. There is no doubt about it.

Land Commissioner J. V. Wolfe is to be congratulated upon his remarkable abilities as a collector. He has succeeded in collecting \$1,202.80 from Hon. Jack MacCall, ex-republican candidate for governor. The above amount pays one-half of the amount of Mr. MacCall's debt to the state for the use of school lands.

Mr. Bryan has returned from his trip to Mexico. Tuesday evening the Traveling Men's Bryan club tendered him a magnificent reception and an elaborate banquet. Many prominent speakers were present and the event was one of the greatest of the kind ever given in this city. It was a splendid expression of loyalty to Nebraska's most famous citizen.

Secretary of state, Hon. W. F. Porter has collected for fees and turned over to the state treasurer up to December 31, '97, \$4,400, more than twice the amount the republican secretary of state Joel A. Piper collected during a full term of two years. Mr. Weener, deputy secretary of state, says that the indications are that the fees for 1898 will exceed \$5,000. This is the fruit that one populist law is bearing for the taxpayers of Nebraska. How do you like it?

The latest decision of the supreme court would seem to indicate that Attorney General Smyth knows something about criminal law. He has proven himself more than a match for Mr. Bartley and his army of attorneys. It is quite immaterial to the people of Nebraska whether Mr. Smyth spells his name with an "i" or a "y", or whether he parts his hair in the middle or on the side but they will fully appreciate his untiring energy and faithful service in prosecuting defaulting public officials.

The large attendance at the state teacher's association which met in Lincoln last week is to be accounted for largely by the greatly increased amount of the school apportionment. This money was promptly paid out by the state treasurer to the several counties in the state, and the school treasurers were able to pay the teachers salaries that were due. This furnished the teachers the ready money with which to pay the expenses of the trip to Lincoln. The teachers of the state appreciate the efficient and prompt work of Treasurer Meserve and State Superintendent Jackson.

Every Nebraskan has reason to feel proud of the credit of his state. It has been wonderfully improved during the last year. Last week Secretary of State Hon. W. F. Porter sold his \$500 warrant for a quarter of a year's salary, to the Security Investment company, of which that famous republican ex-Lieutenant Governor R. E. Moore is president, for \$503.75. Even ex-republican officials recognize that the state's credit is much better in populist hands than under the control of republicans. Ex-Lieutenant Governor R. E. Moore buys warrants according to what they are worth. Under republican administrations he paid about 93 cents on the dollar for warrants; at the present time he is paying 100.75 cents on the dollar for the same kind of warrants. Can you see the effect of the change?

Some newspapers claim we ought to annex the Hawaiian Islands because Americans have thirty million dollars invested there. Well, if that is good logic, the United States ought to be annexed to England because the British have over fifteen billion dollars invested here.

STANDING UP FOR NEBRASKA.

"Standing up for Nebraska" is getting to be quite expensive to the public officers of the state. Treasurer Meserve very properly insists that so long as he is in the market for the state and will pay par for state warrants, that public officers should present their warrants to him for payment instead of selling them to brokers. As the brokers are offering % of one per cent premium, it will readily be seen that the business of "standing up for Nebraska" is somewhat expensive. As an instance, last week Governor Holcomb received a warrant for \$625, a quarterly payment of his salary. He turned it over to State Treasurer Meserve for investment of the permanent school fund, and received from the treasurer \$625. If the governor had desired to do so, he could have sold the warrant to brokers at % of one per cent premium, in which case he would have received \$629.69, or \$4.69 more than he received from the state. In other words, if the governor should pursue the plan of selling his warrants to the highest bidder, in a year's time instead of receiving \$2,500 for his salary, he would receive \$2,518.75. Under the present populist administration the state pays its obligations in warrants that are "better than gold." No state can boast of a credit better than Nebraska's.

Under republican administrations public officials were compelled to sell their warrants at 6 per cent discount. Under a republican administration the governor, instead of receiving \$2,500 a year, really received only \$2,350.

Quite a change in Nebraska's credit. How do you like it.

FREE TO SOUND CURRENCY PAPERS.

The American Press association at Omaha, Nebraska, has been sending out sample sheet price lists of ready prepared plate matter which it carries in stock. Under the heading "Political, Industrial Matter, etc.," the American Press association gives the following list of pages which they furnish and the charges for each page:

- Democratic—Issued once in two weeks, in Brevier. Price \$1.20.
People's Party—Issued once in two weeks. Edited by a member of the national committee. Brevier. Price \$1.20.
Labor—A page fortnightly. Edited by Jos. B. Buchanan, known in labor circles. In Brevier. Price \$1.20.
Sound Currency—Issued once in three weeks, in Brevier, and SUPPLIED FREE OF CHARGE by the Sound Currency Committee of the Reform Club, 52 Williams Street, New York City.

The New York goldbugs have this sound currency matter prepared and sent FREE OF CHARGE to every paper in the United States that will use it.

Do you think that they are doing it solely in the interest of the working man? Have they no selfish purpose in their mad efforts to fasten the gold standard upon the American people?

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A RECORD TO BE PROUD OF.

The state of Nebraska in all its previous history, has never had so able, conscientious and fearless a treasurer as the present populist official in that position. Hon. John B. Meserve has made a record for himself as treasurer that any man would be proud of. He has kept every pledge that he made to the people. This is not mere assertion. The figures in the treasurer's office and the auditor's office prove its truth. Upon taking the office, one of the first things that Treas. Meserve was compelled to do, was to announce to the world the enormous defalcations of his predecessors in office. Such announcements and proof of fraud and stealing of state funds would, under ordinary circumstances, run the state's credit down, down, almost to zero. But what was the result. Treasurer Meserve took hold of the situation with a firm hand. He stated to the holders of the state's obligations that notwithstanding the enormous defalcations every dollar of the state's indebtedness would be paid. He began the work systematically and prosecuted it vigorously, taking no chances, but requiring safe and honest dealing in every instance. The first thing was to find the exact amount of the losses which the state had sustained and charge it off from the records, in order that the books would correctly show the condition of the state's finances.

He found: Losses by former administrations, \$673,641.35. General fund warrant misappropriated \$201,884.05, a total of \$875,525.40. He charged this sum, which is lost to the state, off from the books into a separate account which he designated as the "suspended account."

Having done this, he began to put a brake on the expenditures, and during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1897, he registered for payment out of the general fund only \$1,021,053.31, which is \$602,967.05 less than was registered for payment by the republican treasurer, for the corresponding period in 1895. It is proper to compare 1895 with 1897 for the reason that a legislative session was held those years. Of course the amount of expenditures and warrants registered is greater the odd years when the legislature meets than for the even years when there is no legislative session. The registry account therefore stands as follows: 1895—Reg. by Reps. \$1,624,020.96 1897—Reg. by Pops. 1,021,053.31 Saving to taxpayers. \$ 602,967.65 As last as any...

calls for outstanding, unpaid general fund warrants. He kept no money on hand that was not actually needed in the transaction of business. By so doing, he has reduced the indebtedness of the state just about three quarters of a million dollars. The reductions are distributed as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Fund, Reduction. Bonded debt... \$ 207,000.00 Floating debt (gen. fund) 481,861.08 Temporary University..... 41,620.73 Feeble minded..... 17,527.03

Total reduction.....\$ 748,015.84 Mr. Meserve also took charge of the permanent school fund of the state. This had been a fruitful vineyard for the republicans. This money had been deposited by preceding treasurers in favorite banks without charging but little interest. The greater part of the interest that was charged, was pocketed by the treasurer or his political friends. It failed to get into the school fund to be divided among the school children of the state. Mr. Meserve changed all this. He invested the permanent school fund in the best manner possible. As a result of his wise and careful investments, the two school apportionments announced and distributed by him, have been greater than any in the history of the state. The average amount of the school apportionments for each year from 1890 to 1896 inclusive, was \$569,205.28. For 1897, it reached the enormous sum of \$739,591.93. The natural effect of such management of the state's affairs, was to improve the state's credit. The price of warrants in the open market began to rise, and in the year have risen from seven per cent discount to three quarters of one per cent premium. Today the state's paper is worth more than its face in gold. It is better than the "soundest currency." Honor to Treasurer John B. Meserve.

AUTONOMY FOR CUBA.

The full text of the decree of autonomy has at last been published in this country. That which we had before surmised to be true of it is now seen to be an unquestionable fact; it gives enormous powers to the Governor-General, insures practically a balance of power to those seventeen members of the Upper Chamber who are to be appointed by the Governor-General, by making them life members, while the other eighteen members are to be re-elected one-half every five years at the least, and often if it pleases the Governor-General to dissolve the Council. Without going into the particular restrictions of the decree, it may be said generally that there are so many obstacles to free legislation on the part of the proposed Cuban Parliament that one can well understand Sagasta's frank statement that the first concern has been "to affirm and strengthen the bond of sovereignty," and to see to it that "the central authority is in no wise lessened or weakened." Apart from the limitations upon free government contained in the decree itself, it is to be noted that the decree is still to receive the approval of the Spanish Cortes, and that it is not absolutely certain that this approval will be given. Moreover, there is no guarantee whatever that the decree, even if ratified, may not be withdrawn at any time in the future at the will of the Ministry and the Cortes. All these things considered, it is not remarkable that the Cuban leaders look with suspicion and incredulity upon the whole plan of autonomy.

THE GOLD COMMISSION'S REPORT.

The report of the self-constituted Indianapolis monetary commission contains two important admissions—first, that the United States possessed the bimetallic standard from 1792 down to 1873, and second, that the value of silver did not decline until after the act of demonetization, the silver dollar of 1873 being commercially more valuable than the gold dollar.

This admission, when coupled with another fact that in the world at large from 1680 to 1873 there was no appreciable variation between the coinage and commercial value of gold and silver, is very suggestive of the real cause of the decline in the value of silver bullion as compared with gold. When silver was discredited at the mints it was denied its largest and most important use, while the same act placed an additional burden on gold. The yellow metal was in greater demand and became more valuable. The white metal was in less demand and depreciated. The two metals, which had maintained an almost unvarying ratio for nearly 200 years, began to draw apart. If it was not legislation that gave rise to this unfortunate divergence, what was it?

The demand of the advocates of silver and all friends of bimetalism is that this legislation shall be undone. They assert, with the experience of two centuries behind them, that when both metals are again received at the mint on the same terms as existed prior to 1873, gold and silver will again come together. They ask nothing new, nothing untried, only a return to the conditions which according to this report prevailed from 1792 down to 1873. This is the real basis of the dispute between bimetalists and monometalists. In the meantime the cold fact remains, as has been shown in the Rocky Mountain News, that every outstanding bond of the United States is by the Matthews

silver dollars. This is the contract with the bondholder. This is the law as it stands upon the statute books of the United States. The silver men object to any change in the contract or the law. If silver has depreciated in value, it is due to the machinations of the bondholders. Let them stand the consequences of their own acts, and reap the reward of their own conspiracy against the people of the United States.

THE DISMEMBERMENT OF CHINA

Comparatively little attention has been given to the recent troubles in the Orient by the press of this country, except as a matter of news. The commercial effect of such a violation of the laws of nations as is proposed by the great powers in the case of China, has scarcely been mentioned. Senator Teller of Colorado, a man of wide experience and well versed in international law says in an interview just published that the operations now going on in the Orient threatens our commercial interests and eventually the very existence of our nation. He says:

"If this dismemberment is permitted our treaties with China will fall and we shall have to deal anew with the powers who take possession of the Chinese territory. Russia will get the biggest slice and if she is not particularly a competitor of ours now, she will then become one."

"After the dismemberment has occurred we cannot say to the governments that have taken possession of China that we have certain treaty rights. They will reply that there is no China and therefore no treaties. But that is not the worst of it. If this dismemberment occurs, the people of what is now China will become the producers for the whole world. A competitor in production and trade will be introduced against which we or no other people can successfully contend. The economic conditions of the whole world will be changed."

"The people of China have a greater power of production than any other like number of people in the world. All they need is to be aroused to the effort and to have their efforts properly directed. Inspired by enterprise and energy of Germany and Russia, they would produce so cheaply that there would be no competition with them. The commerce and wealth of other nations would shrivel up. Russia with her dominion extended over the greater part of China, would practically overrun the earth."

"It is against the interest of nations, perhaps even threatening to our civilization, to have China dismembered. It would be as destructive to Great Britain as it would be to us. When it is said that the United States cannot interfere, it should be understood what a failure to interfere will involve. The dismemberment of China means the cutting off of our commerce in the Orient and the introduction of a competitor who will deprive us of the commerce of the rest of the world and even supply our own people."

"We cannot permit this without sinking to the position of a third or fourth-rate nation, helpless, degraded and without influence among the nations of the earth. We would have to submit to the domination of an absolutism among the nations; our own institutions would take on a decline and the civilization represented by this government and the English government would cease to progress. We would suffer more than any other people. We have more involved and would be more directly injured."

"It is folly, therefore, to say that we should have nothing to say. It is our duty to prevent this dismemberment of China, as it is that of Great Britain. We should join with Great Britain in a notice to Russia and Germany that the dismemberment of China will not be permitted. Even without Great Britain we should give such notice. Almost our very existence as a nation is involved. We should have nothing more than a mere existence should we permit it."

It is plainly the object of the governments that are taking possession of China to levy tribute from the Chinese people. At present the Chinese government has no bonded debt. As soon as it becomes a part of the European nations it will be necessary for the Chinese to pay their share, and probably more than their share, of the interest, debts, and current expenses of the European powers. They will be drafted into the European armies. If they do not fight for their liberties now, they will be compelled to fight under some other banner to help to enslave some other people.

This nation, with its "vigorous foreign policy" looks on without a word. European nations violate our treaties and enslave the human race within a stone's throw of our seaboard, without so much as a protest from this enlightened nation. What could be expected from such an administration in dealing with matters so distant as China. As a nation we have rights that should be respected. Our merchants should be protected in their trading with all the world, Cuba and China alike. Germany or Russia or any other nation should not be allowed to violate treaties, insult our merchants and all but trail our flag in the dust, as they have done by entering China's ports.

HARDY'S COLUMN.

Public Wrongs—Eastern Threats—Work in Prisons—Cotton Factories—Economy—Change of the Seat of Government—Supreme Court and Bartley—John Thurston Disgraced—Fourteen Noble Deeds—Hanna Liked. If we should be invited to talk we would take for our subject "Public Wrongs and how to right them." We enjoy kicking against wrong. We have been asked to give samples of eastern threats made against Bryan and his doctrine. The Hon. J. B. Henderson, in a speech made at Wilmington, Delaware, October 10, 1896, said: "Should they be elected and attempt

less than four or five million armed soldiers to resist them. If nothing else will do them, we will defend the constitution as we did in 1861 and 1865, and there are men who will bring Mr. Bryan and his cohorts in as prisoners of war as they did Jefferson Davis then."—From the Wilmington Morning News, October 20th, 1896.

We have no sympathy with the people who fight the authorities for letting the prisoners work in our penitentiaries. If one person in three thousand, that is the proportion of prisoners, can throw all the others out of work, the many can not do much. Indiana has taken the work away from her prisoners and they are now begging for work of some kind. The men who set themselves to work are not the ones fighting the system. It is the fellows who want to do the work for wages for some other fellow who must furnish the brain and capital. There is no possible way that prisoners can affect the wages of one laboring person in a hundred. Work on the farm, in kitchen and dairy, on railroad and ships, in the mines, in the offices and in the professions, all these classes are relieved more or less from taxation by making the prisoners work at something. We would rather make the prisoners work and earn their own living, rather than be compelled to earn our own living and theirs too. Prisoners can and should be made to pay their own way.

It is reported that all the cotton factories in New England are about to follow the Fall River factories in cutting wages of their operators. Twelve per cent is thought to be necessary or shut up shop. That is what the working people get from the high protection Dingle bill.

What will the cotton workers of New England do? They can't compete with the mills of the south any easier than they can with the paupers of Europe. Like a poor, weak horse, they have always had the long end of the lever and the farmers have had to pull at the short end. Now to make them pull on an evener with the colored workmen of the south is hardheartedness. To think of making a fine-haired New Englander work on a level with people in the west and south is enough to turn the moon to blood.

How hard it is for office holders and office seekers to favor economy. No great difference as to what party they belong. They are not willing that any body's salary should be cut or the number of under clerks reduced. A reform party has got to reform or go out of business. The backbone of reform is economy. It is one of the easiest things in the world to spend another person's money. The salary is never too large or the work too small.

The seat of government is about to be moved to Washington. The New York Central railroad, the Lake Shore, Michigan Central, Misonri Pacific, North Western and Union Pacific have consolidated and located headquarters at Chicago. The Oregon Short Line, Central Pacific and Southern Pacific are all to be added. This combination will constitute the government of the United States of America. There is but one way to checkmate this assemblage, that is to cut him in two at the middle by building a government road from Bismark to Galveston. The territory between the Mississippi and the Rockies are entitled to a part of the river and harbor appropriations and we will take ours in railroads.

The supreme court will probably say something about Bartley and Moore before the new judge takes his seat. It has become a republican necessity that those two men go to the pen. If they wriggle out of it, the republican party is flayed and quartered. On the other hand, if those two men are behind the bars, there will be a small fighting chance for them at next fall's election. We expect there will be some small crawl out. A banker will select a jury, seven of whom will be bankers who have had some of the mutton, as was the case with the Hill jury, and they will go clear.

No wonder John Thurston is disgusted with his office of senator. He could have gone into McKinley's cabinet for four years or onto the United States bench for life, only it would not do to vacate his seat in the senate. The reason for that is a pop would be put in his place. Power in the senate is more needed than on the throne or bench.

Fourteen of the noble things that McKinley has done since the 4th of last March, are the pardoning of fourteen bank wreckers. Of course these fine haired gold bugs must not be kept shut up. They are the backbone of the party. We know how that is here in Nebraska. How unfortunate for Mosher that McKinley was not president at the time he was in prison.

It looks as though Hanna would be defeated next Wednesday and not elected to the senate. It seems altogether too good a thing to be true. He knows better how to use money in politics than any other man living; for he has used more of it. If millions will be saved millions will be used. If he is defeated it will wince the McKinley administration badly. A silver senator from Ohio is not a bad thing to have.

The state board of agriculture will hold its annual meeting in the university chapel on Jan. 18. This is the principal meeting of the year. It is held according to the statute governing the society. It is predicted that it will be an exceedingly lively session on account of the unhappiness that has been accumulated since the late was located near Omaha.

Adjutant-General Barry has returned from Illinois and Ohio. He visited Adjutant-General Reese of Illinois and Adjutant-General Axline of Ohio. General Barry went to further the proposition of mobilization of the national guard at the Trans Mississippi exposition. In case congress does not pass an act for this purpose it is proposed to induce authorities of many states to send a large representation of the guard to

Advertisement for shoes with '1-4 Off...' and '25 Per Cent Discount' text. Includes 'Sanderson-Schurman' and 'Davis' brand names.

EDITORS' IDEAS.

If Mr. Hanna hopes to see through the scheme of those recalcitrant Ohio republicans he will have to use something better than the X-raise. He will have to use D-raise or M-raise. Paltry X's will not go in a case of this kind.—World Herald.

The national bankers are our most favored class of citizens; the government pays them interest upon the bonds, a good interest too, one that is current the world over for such securities, and another interest he receives from the borrower of his notes, which the government gives him.—American X Ray.

Gov. Holcomb is looked upon as one of the best executive officials in the United States, and if the reform forces of Nebraska should persist in making him the standard bearer for governor again next fall, the treasury looters would eringe and snarl, for victory would be assured the entire state ticket. Ordinarily we are opposed to a third term, but in this instance, we believe it the display of good judgment to renominate all of the present state officials.—Western News.

Iowa for a long series of years has been under republican control and management. The official announcement, just out, shows that Iowa will have a deficit in this year's revenue, of over \$500,000. Nebraska is managed by state "lunatics." Its state treasurer has paid off during the last year, \$500,000 of old republican debts, and at the close of the present year it will have a surplus revenue of about \$2,000,000. It is such facts as these that are depleting the ranks of the republican party.—Clay County Patriot.

The devil once bargained for the soul of a young man. The devil agreed to furnish all the money the young man could spend, and if he did not spend it as fast as it came his soul was to be the forfeit. For several years the young man managed to keep ahead of the game by the aid of wine, women and fast horses, but finally the fiend sent him a tremendous sum, which seemed utterly impossible to get rid of, when the young man, as a last resort, started a newspaper. At the end of three months the devil began to growl, at the end of nine months he was and, and at the end of a year he owned up dead broke. The paper went up, but a soul was saved.—Custer County Chief.

SMALL HAPPENINGS.

The judges of the district court in Lancaster county, have ordered a grand jury to meet Feb. 7.

Prof. W. A. Jones, superintendent of the school for the blind at Nebraska City, was in Lincoln attending the State Teachers association last week.

Auditor Cornell has returned from the east. He visited Washington, New York and Buffalo. He went to inquire into the standing of insurance companies.

State treasurer Meserve has issued a call for general fund warrants from Nos. 35,852 to 36,051, amounting to \$27,000. The call takes effect January 12.

Two car loads of goods just in, worth \$50,000—bought for \$1,500, but the Paine & Warfel Clothing Store is the place to get very good goods at only reasonable prices.

Last week, land commissioner J. V. Wolfe, succeeded in collecting \$1,202.88 from Hon. Jack MacCall, which is one half of the amount the ex-republican candidate for governor owes the state for delinquent dues for school land leases. He had been delinquent since 1890.

On account of the row that his single standard views have aroused in the republican camp, Secretary Gage recently tendered his resignation to President McKinley. He was assured that the president desired him to retain his position as he entirely agreed with the gold standard views expressed in Secretary Gage's recent message.

There have been several changes among the clerks in the state auditor's office since the new year. W. B. Price, who was clerk to the insurance deputy, has been made bond clerk, and J. W. Simpson, formerly bond clerk, has been made an examiner of county treasurers, in place of J. J. Everingham, who takes the place of clerk in the insurance department.

D. E. Thompson has made a proposition to the Lincoln city council to furnish power and pump the water for the city system for \$17,000 per year. Thompson recently offered to do the work for \$20,000, but there was considerable opposition on the part of citizens to letting him get his hands on the plant in any way, and the last proposition was the outcome. The water works system in Lincoln is owned and operated by the city at the present time.

Do not be deceived. There is only one Genuine Walnut Block Coal, and the Centerville Block Coal Co. produces and sells it. \$4.50 delivered. 119 South 12th street, phone 397.