

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

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

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Treasurer Meserve has issued a call for \$14,000 of temporary university fund warrants, the call to take effect February 3.

The attention of our readers is called to the article entitled "Land, Transportation and Finance," written by Mr. Wilbur F. Bryant. It will be found on page 2.

Since the United States has sent the battleship Maine into Cuban waters France and England have decided to follow a similar course and have sent war ships on a similar trip to Havana.

Senator Allen has secured a favorable report from the senate committee on public buildings recommending the purchase of sites and erection of government buildings at Hastings and Norfolk. They will pass the senate within the next few days.

Senator Allen has introduced an amendment to the pension appropriation bill providing that hereafter no pension for less than \$8 per month shall be granted and that all for less than that amount at the present time shall be raised to that amount.

Editor Cheney of the North Platte Independent Era, drew a picture last week of the performances of the Goshawk Power and Irrigation company which, after refusing to pay its taxes for four years finally offered to pay \$6,000 to settle \$17,300 taxes—34 cents on the dollar. The stock is mostly held in the east and the offer was made by one of the eastern stockholders.

Mr. J. H. Edmiston, state oil inspector has collected sufficient fees for the inspection of oil to pay all the expenses of the oil department and has turned the balance of \$1,890 over to Treasurer Meserve. As Mr. Hilton, the republican oil inspector, left a hole of \$5,000, it will be seen that Mr. Edmiston must have made several very important improvements since he took charge of the office. It is the usual difference between an honest and a dishonest public official.

A few weeks ago we learned from the associated press dispatches that a lot of students were exiled from Stanford University for celebrating a football victory with drunken orgies in San Francisco. The Nebraska method of dealing with such cases is illustrated by a recent executive order from the head of our state University. It seems that one of the college papers published by the students of the University commented on the Princeton Inn affair which has caused such a commotion in the country. The article concluded with some uncompromising remarks upon the moral atmosphere of Lincoln "where we haven't one grill room only to get rid of instead of a town full of saloons and vicious resorts of all kinds." Another paragraph referred to the disgraceful betting on the college campus during the late football game between Kansas and Nebraska, and to "the Thanksgiving jamboree in Omaha" in honor of the victory over Iowa. It was implied that some students of the Nebraska University are not always upright.

It might be expected that the "authorities" would attempt to discover the black sheep and make mutton of them according to the Stanford plan. But that is not the Nebraska way. When Saturday fails to reform we will cover up the defects and smile, and smile again. In conformity with this policy it was thought best to "suppress" the rural circulation of that particular issue of the college paper. If the high schools do not receive it they will not understand the reason. If they do receive it they will understand that students are as full of resources as they are of wickedness and that the chancellor has been outwitted. For our part we believe the students thoroughly competent to manage their own enterprises. There is no more sense in the censorship of the college press than there is in government inspection of newspapers. Student sentiment controls the college press as public sentiment controls the newspaper world. It has been common talk among professors and students that the moral tone of Lincoln is lower than ever before in its history. It is getting worse instead of better. If Lincoln is unable to purify itself without assistance a little pressure may be brought from the outside, and no influence would be more salutatory than that from the parents who have children in our University. Let the students tell the truth. Weak places may thus be repaired and no fostering care will long endanger the usefulness of our highest educational institution.

SECRETARY PORTER'S OFFICE SELF-SUSTAINING.

Last Friday the new Union Pacific railway organization filed its articles of incorporation in the office of the secretary of state. The capital stock of the corporation is \$136,000,000. The fee paid for filing and recording the same was \$13,608.50. The total fees from all other sources received since Mr. Porter took charge of the office are \$1,905.30, making a total of \$15,508.80 received by Secretary Porter in the past year. The appropriation made by the legislature of 1897 for the office of secretary of state during the ensuing two years were these:

For salaries.....\$15,800

For office expenses..... 2,500

Total.....\$18,300

It will be seen that all the expenses of the secretary of state's office for the entire term for which Mr. Porter was elected have already been paid from the receipts of the office and over \$200 besides turned into the state treasury. There will be turned into the treasury during Mr. Porter's term from the operations of the office of the secretary of state in the neighborhood of \$5,000 over and beyond the entire cost of conducting the office.

This result has been brought about without any hardship to any one or injury to any class in the state. It simply consists in the transfer of the expense of conducting the office from the taxpayers to the corporations who avail themselves of the state's powers in order to organize and conduct business. The fee for incorporating is graduated according to the amount of capital stock, not high enough to make it prohibitory for any, but enough to make the great corporations contribute a reasonable amount toward the expenses of state government. Under the old law which has been on the statute books of Nebraska for years these corporations contributed practically nothing for the privilege of incorporating. For example, the Union Pacific would have paid under the old law \$4.50 into the state treasury instead of \$13,600. The total receipts by Secretary of State Piper, Mr. Porter's predecessor, were a little more than \$1,600 for his two years term.

The change in the system is due to Secretary Porter and a populist legislature. Soon after taking possession of the office a bill providing substantially for the new schedule of fees was drawn up in Mr. Porter's office. It was introduced by Senator Farrell in the senate and Representative Sheldon in the house on Feb. 16th. The house bill passed March 9th and was sent to the senate where it was concluded that the safest plan to avoid objections to the title was to divide the bill into two parts and pass it as two bills. This was done and Senate File 287 and House Roll 479 passed the senate March 22nd, and were signed by Gov. Holcomb March 30th. Several large corporations got wind of the bills and rushed in their articles while they were pending before the legislature. Withstanding this, the receipts under the two bills have made the Secretary of State's office self-sustaining and will contribute a handsome sum toward paying the burden of debt which has accumulated under the previous mal-administration of affairs at the state house.

Yielders and taxpayers of Nebraska, do you like the new system of doing business at the state capitol? Show this article to your republican friends and ask them how they like it.

THE MAXIMUM RATE DECISION.

The Washington dispatches of last Saturday give the news of the confirmation of Joseph McKenna, of California, associate justice of the supreme court of the United States. The principal objection to the confirmation in the senate's executive session was our own Senator Allen who founded his opposition upon petitions from the Pacific coast alleging that McKenna was unqualified and unfit for the position.

It looks now very much as though the appointment of McKenna may have an important bearing upon the Nebraska maximum rate decision. There are some peculiar things about the maximum rate case in the supreme court. It is now nearly five years since the act was passed by the Nebraska legislature and three years since the case went to the supreme court at Washington. The case was then very ably argued on both sides and a decision looked for upon the day it was made up and presented. The court, however, wanted the case re-argued. It will be a year in March since the case was re-argued and almost every day since then a decision has been expected to be handed down. More than six months ago it was announced that a decision had been agreed upon and that it was in favor of the railroads. At first the failure of the court to hand down the decision was ascribed to vacation over its premature publication, but as month after month has gone by since then it begins to appear that something is in the matter with this long delayed decision.

The best interpretation to place upon the situation is that there is an equal division of the court or so nearly an equal division that it was thought advisable to wait until the vacancy was filled and that further consultation be had before making the decision public.

There is another interpretation to be

placed upon the court's action. That is that the decision is agreed upon, but that the great railroad interests involved are holding it back until it is too late for the legislature to be called in extra session to pass another maximum rate law in case the present one be thrown out by the court. The only point upon which the case is pending is whether the freight rates fixed by the legislature of 1893 are reasonable or not. If they are not reasonable (in the view of the supreme court) it becomes a legislative duty to frame a schedule that is reasonable. It is known that Gov. Holcomb has been strongly disposed to summon the legislature in extra session in case the supreme court should pronounce the reduction in rates made by the legislature in 1893 too radical. There has been great nervousness in Nebraska railroad circles over the outcome of an extra legislative session. It is possible these influences have been at work to hold back the decision. Stranger things have happened in the history of courts.

It is time the people of Nebraska knew what the supreme court is going to do with the maximum act. Five years is long enough for a case of such magnitude to be held in court suspense. Now that the vacancy is filled on the supreme bench we have certainly the right to look for an early decision.

WOLCOTT VS. GAGE.

In the senate last week Mr. Wolcott, of Colorado attempted to defend the course of President McKinley and asserted that McKinley favors international bimetalism. He stated that Secretary Gage's views on finance do not accord with those of the president. In this position Mr. Wolcott is not supported by those papers which are regarded as "administration papers." The Washington Evening Star commenting on the matter says: "Mr. Gage represents the financial branch of the administration and will probably continue to do so," and that "the (Mr. Gage) was before the house committee on banking and currency as a representative of the administration, sustaining his proposition for currency reform based on the continuance of the gold standard." To prove the correctness of its position and that no difference of opinion exists between President McKinley and his secretary, the Star continues: "It was supposed that this question was settled when Mr. Gage indicated to the president that he would retire from the cabinet if his position on the money question was embarrassing to the president, and the president assured him that no embarrassment existed."

This much is certain. Mr. Gage is in favor of the single gold standard. He was appointed and is continued in office by the power of President McKinley. If Mr. McKinley is in favor of a different financial policy from that which is being pursued he alone has the power to change it. Until he exercises that power to change the present policy he must be regarded as giving it his indorsement.

The Omaha Bee says the remedy for present distress and reduction of wages in the cotton manufacturing industry is the "extension of our trade abroad." Any one believe it? The way to secure better wages for American labor is to go out into the markets of the world to sell in competition, not only with the operatives in England and Germany, but with Japanese, Chinese and Hindoos. Not a word about an honest system of exchange by which the American farmers and other industrial workers of this country would be able to exchange their own labor for the products of the cotton mills. There are thousands of homes this very day in Nebraska whose occupants would gladly exchange the product of their labor for those of the workers in the New England cotton mills. And the joy in New England homes would be equal if the exchange could be made. There is a market in America to-day for the products of our mills. But the market is closed by the system of monopoly which reaps enormous profits from manufacture and distribution. So long as we do business under that system the market will remain closed. The Bee's remedy is simply ridiculous. One of the best stories Tom Reed ever told was in his speech upon the passage of the Wilson tariff bill. It was the old story of the dog with the bone crossing the stream and seeing the reflection of another dog with another bone in the water. The bone the dog had in his mouth was the home market. The other bone was the foreign market. The editor of the Omaha Bee needs to read up that speech of Reed and make a personal application.

Auditor Corwell has received more than \$2,000 during the past week in loan from insurance companies.

Those "Leaning Democrats." An individual who is rather blankly described as "one of the leading democrats," stated to a newspaper correspondent last week, that before long a movement, "which is now on foot," will come out "openly for the retirement of Bryan and the silver issue as the chief features of the democracy" and for the adoption of a platform that shall simply favor "anti-monopoly." The trouble is that the "leading democrats" have been trying to get rid of Bryan ever since the day he was nominated and they do not seem to be any nearer their goal today than they were in the beginning. We hear that Bryan is what is called in Tammany politics "a stayer."

FATE OF A FREE SILVER REPUBLICAN.

The turning down of M. A. Brown, editor of the Kearney Hub, for the Kearney postoffice, and the appointment of a former Union Pacific employer, who was not an applicant for the place, has created some surprise in orthodox republican circles and a good deal of wrath in the souls of Editor Brown and his friends.

There is no occasion for surprise to those who know all the facts, however. It is true that M. A. Brown is a forceful, vigorous writer. It is true that he has been for twenty years one of the most active and influential republican editors in the state, serving his party, as only an editor can, fighting the populist movement with relentless and irrational zeal, sacrificing his own principles to prove his loyalty to the party in whose service his life had been spent and never asking an office until now. But another thing is true. Brown is a free silver man. This may seem strange for a supporter of the gold standard party in 1896 and in fact there is neither logic nor reason in it, but it is true. During all these years while supporting the republican ticket the editor of the Hub has been an advocate of the free coinage of silver. In 1892 at the republican sixth district congressional convention at Chadron, at which James Whitehead was nominated against Kem, Brown introduced a resolution pledging the nominee to vote for the free coinage of silver. It was voted down by a large majority, but Brown was not discouraged. Two years later, the republicans met at Broken Bow and nominated Matt Daugherty. Brown wrote the platform which was adopted this time. That platform created an uproar of horse laughter wherever it was read. It had one plank denouncing Grover Cleveland and the democratic party for the "crime of 1893" in demonetizing silver and another pledging the republican candidate to vote for free coinage! And the worst of the joke was that Brown actually meant it.

When McKinley was nominated and the gold platform adopted at St. Louis in 1896 it was a strong dose for Brown. How he ever managed it no one knows but himself and his own conscience, and some there are who insist that the latter had no part in the transaction. He got the dose down and supported the ticket, but he didn't get the Kearney postoffice. Not with twenty years service charging the enemy's breast works. Not with a host of warm personal friends and a string of endorsements as long as a lariat. He met the fate of J. D. Calhoun, of Lincoln, who worked the soles off his shoes and windows in the elbows of his coat in the service of the democratic party, supported Grover Cleveland for president, asked for the Lincoln postoffice and was thrown over the transom. The bottom fact in both these cases is the same. Free silver men are not wanted by either the Cleveland or McKinley wing of the moneyed oligarchy, who are organizing things at Washington.

WILL THEY TAKE IT BACK?

The republican press has had much to say about the attitude of the New York Journal concerning the nomination of Mr. Bryan for president in 1900. The Nebraska State Journal, and many others of its kind, has asserted that the great New York daily, the New York Journal, had turned its back upon Mr. Bryan and did not favor him for president in 1900. They were diligent in spreading this infamous falsehood. As we stated to our readers last week, the article in the New York Journal, to which the State Journal and other republican papers referred was a communication—a signed article written by Mr. Arthur McEwen, a Tammany democrat, and was not the opinion of the New York Journal. Since that the New York Journal has clearly defined its position. It has not changed its attitude in the least. It is not "unfriendly" or "antagonistic" to Mr. Bryan. It supported Mr. Bryan in 1896 and will support him in 1900. The New York Journal says editorially:

A LESSON IN JOURNALISM.

A communication signed by Mr. Arthur McEwen on the subject of the expediency of renominating Mr. Bryan for the presidency in 1900 has been taken by a swarm of correspondents and newspapers as indicating the position of the Journal on this interesting subject. The Chicago Times-Herald, for instance, quotes Mr. McEwen's expressions at considerable length, and asserts that "they represent the editorial views of the only influential newspaper in the east which advocated the election of William J. Bryan and indorsed the Chicago platform, upon which he stood."

The Journal is gratified to have such an excellent opportunity of impressing upon the laity, for whom such instruction might be expected to be necessary, as well as upon its newspaper contemporaries, who ought not to need it, a valuable bit of information, to wit: that the opinions of the Journal on political or any other topics are to be found only in its editorial columns. As far as space will permit, the Journal endeavors to be hospitable to the private ideas both of members of its staff and of outsiders. It has repeatedly printed signed articles by Mr. Willis J. Abbott, Mr. James Crossman, Mr. Arthur McEwen, Mr. Alfred Henry Lewis, ex-Senator John J. Ingalls, "A Unionist," "Tholly Kiekerbocker," "Alan Dale" and innumerable other writers in and out of its office. Many of these communications have been radically opposed to the policy of the paper. The fact that an article, whether by an editorial writer or anybody else, is signed and appears outside of the editorial columns, is conclusive proof that

it represents the private opinions of the author and not the views of the Journal. As to the position of the Journal on the subject of Mr. Bryan, the matter is simplicity itself. The Journal supported Mr. Bryan in 1896 because he was the regular nominee of the democratic national convention. It will support him in 1900, or anybody else who may occupy the same position. It supported Mr. Van Wye last year for similar reasons. The Journal is not and never was either a Bryan paper or a Van Wye paper. It is a democratic paper.

It remains to be seen whether the Nebraska State Journal, and other republican papers of its ilk, will have the honesty to correct their false and misleading statements, and whether they will endeavor to give the "editorial" as wide circulation as they did the "communication." Do you think they all have the honesty to take back their lying statements? Never. It is not their kind of politics.

JUDGE STARK VINDICATED.

Washington Post replies editorially to the accusations of the Star.

In speaking of the attack of the Washington Star (gold democrat) on Judge Stark, for urging the pension claim of Mrs. Cheney of Saunders county, the Washington Post (republican) of January 18, has this to say, editorially:

"Abuse of congressmen because they have endeavored to secure early action on pension claims of their constituents is unjustifiable, and, therefore, uncalled for. So long as a congressman asks for no violation or straining of law, but confines his efforts in the matter of pensions to a fair presentation of facts, his activity may justly be attributed to good motives. There is nothing wrong, nothing that is not really commendable, in asking the Pension Bureau to take up a particularly meritorious case out of its turn. If a congressman knows that an applicant, a soldier, or soldier's widow, is in distress, suffering for the necessities of a decent existence, he does a manly thing in writing or going or sending his secretary to the Pension Bureau to ask that the case be expedited. There are thousands of applicants who can wait for the adjudication of their cases without serious inconvenience. There are thousands of pensioners, many of them of the most deserving class, having an empty sleeve or a wooden leg, who would never have known what had their country denied them a pension. But many of the pensioners are very poor, and many of those who now have applications on file are in destitute circumstances. Should a congressman be abused as a public enemy if, when one of these poor creatures asks his aid in getting early consideration of his or her case, he promptly complies with the request?"

The time has been when many of the leading statesmen in both houses of congress have made a specialty of attending to the requests of the veterans in relation to pensions. Does anybody think the worse of John A. Logan and Daniel W. Voorhees because they were active in behalf of pension claimants? Did the people of their respective states blame them, or did their national reputation suffer by reason of such activity?

The Post has no doubt that there are too many names on the pension roll. It has no doubt that congress has been too liberal in special pension legislation, and it believes that the general pension act of 1890 opened the door for thousands of the undeserving to get their names on the roll. It believes, too, that thousands of the deserving have taken advantage of that act; that thousands who were not injured in the service, and are quite able to make a good living, are drawing pensions on the ground that they are not able to support themselves "by manual labor." But all this should not be permitted to work to the injury of meritorious applicants. The legislative mistakes of congress cannot be remedied by reckless declamation against the pension roll or by assailing congressmen for giving kind attention to appeals from the old soldiers and their widows to expedite action on their claims.

HARDY'S COLUMN.

War ships—Consular reports—Alumni whiskey banquet—Our students—Gold disease—Pensions—Next congressman—State nominations.

One warship has been sent into Cuban waters. We wish we could say a hundred, enough to stop Spanish cussedness at once.

Our consular reports indicate that American iron and steel hold supremacy over the markets of Europe. What will be the effect if they put an embargo upon American products as the Germans have in a small measure upon our pork? Will it not bother us as much to get rid of our agricultural products as it has them to get rid of their manufactured products?

At the annual banquet of the Princeton university alumni, held in New York the 21st inst., we got some knowledge of eastern Presbyterian theological student life. The proceedings at the banquet were more of a disgrace to Christian civilization than that of any distilleries and brewers' banquet ever reported. President Patton assured the many patrons of the university that drunkenness among the students could not be stopped and virtually recommended the boys and girls to buy it by the bottle and use cockshies.

We are glad to see the students of our state university take the right side of the college whiskey question through the

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columns of the Hesperian. Boys are safer with the saloons two blocks away, than when they are encouraged by the faculty and located on the campus.

The gold standard has a worse effect upon the anatomy of a republican than upon a colic. It doubles him up and splits his brain. Knocking silver out is not the end of the disease. The greenbacks must be burned, the treasury notes paid, and not only the silver but the nickels and coppers must be melted up and sold for gold at what they will fetch. It is a virulent disease. If the doctors could stop it where it is, there would be some hope left for the party. When everything but gold is put out of range, still the disease will be there. The government will then have to stop coining gold or double the quantity in a dollar. Why can't they let things alone as they are? They want to reform things as they did in '73.

The question is now under discussion before the senate whether coin means silver and gold or only gold. Whether there is any option on the part of government even though it so reads in the bond. Cleveland was compelled by congress to make the bonds he issued read payable in coin, and he paid sixteen millions for that privilege. Now is it unjust for us, the common people, to reap an advantage from that option as long as we paid for it?

Pensions are getting altogether too numerous and in time they will become oppressive. All kinds of pensions except for war service are unjust, and even for war service it should be equally distributed according to length of service and wounds received. And it should be paid to the one who served and to a wife and minor children living at the time of his discharge. Officers and officers' wives and children should get no more pensions than the soldiers who did the fighting. Then the idea of pensioning judges, policemen, teachers and other public servants is ridiculous. They get double the pay that farmers do, and why can't they lay up for old age just as well. There is no room for a royal class in this country, to feed upon the earnings of others.

The time has come for the discussion of coming congressional and state nominations. The gold bugs of any party must not be permitted to elect congressmen in the first or second district next time. We gave Judge Broady, a democrat, valiant support two years ago, and this time a populist should be tried and elected. We have them who stand head and shoulders above Strode. Geographically speaking the nomination belongs the south end of the district, and yet Judge Broady was really a south end man. He had been district judge in the south tier of counties for years. But the man who best represents Bryanism and can pull the most votes must be nominated for we have no votes to burn.

In regard to state nominations there is one rule that had better be observed and that is not to let the present office holders, either elected or appointed, dictate nominations. If the present incumbents desire a second term all right, but further than that they have no rights in the case. Neither have they any right to dictate to the law making power what should be done for their office or their appointees. It is a disgrace to see state officers lobbying on the floor of our legislature in their own personal interests. We are not a civil service man. We believe that two terms of two years in any one decade is enough for one man until all of us have a turn. I never would vote for a man who resigned one office to get another. In some extreme cases three terms may be tolerated, but we see no such extreme cases now on hand. If after due consideration it should be thought best to give Gov. Holcomb a third term in order to carry the state, no sane man will object. But the nomination to fill his place should not be given to any subordinate office holder or appointee. It will be found to be a healthy exercise to shift a part of the appointments every two years. Our corn fields are full of good timber for governors. Look up a fresh one, elect him, and then let him select his own appointees fresh from the country. Give us a little new blood, every two years, at the state house. The republican party was strangled for the want of fresh blood. Gov. Holcomb can afford to rest till John Thurston's term expires.

If all who hate would love us, And all our loves were true, The stars that shine above us Would brighten in the blue, If cruel words were blases, And every word a smile, A better world than this is Would hardly be worth while, If peace would outweigh To meet a brother's need, The load we bear would lighten Above the grid of greed.

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The Flinton Exchange bank has gone into voluntary liquidation.