

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

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It is reported that there is a shortage in the office of the clerk of the district court of this county. It is explained that one of the deputies has been living beyond his means. He is a republican.

The "accident" that resulted in the destruction of the Maine seems to indicate that the ironclad warship is still an experiment. There is some evidence that they are more dangerous to their own crew than to their enemies.

We have not yet heard the reasons which moved the chancellor of the university to dispense with the services of his chief secretary. Can it be that there is still a lack of harmony in the university? Who will be the next to resign?

Parties expecting to plant fruit or shade trees this spring will find the advertisements of many responsible and reliable nurseries in this issue of the INDEPENDENT. Write them for catalogues and price lists. Mention the INDEPENDENT.

A number of men moving rapidly in a circle on the capitol grounds the other day attracted a curious crowd. On close approach one learned they were ex-state auditors vigorously kicking each other as a means of exhibiting their mutual disgust at having turned thousands of dollars into the state treasury which the supreme court says they should have appropriated to their own use. Tom Benton seemed to enjoy being kicked for his laxity in this line. They may all bring suit for recovery from the state, who knows?

Professor F. W. Card has resigned the chair of Horticulture in the state university to accept a similar position in the industrial college of Rhode Island. Prof. Card is one of the few men who have been of real use to the fruit growers of this state. It is not too much to say that he has done as much for the agricultural interests of Nebraska as any man who has been connected with our state university. It is very difficult to find college men who are able to keep in touch with the actual conditions of farm life. Prof. Card has been successful as teacher and as investigator. It is a pity that Nebraska has not been able to keep him within her borders. Surely the agricultural interests of this state are as important as those of Rhode Island. Is it possible that the professor of horticulture could not work satisfactorily with the chancellor of the university? He is no dude; and it is rumored that the shame and pretenses in the management of the institution made him very tired. It is not known that he kept a cow, but he had the habit of speaking the plain truth in a quiet way. Gradually the everyday working men of our university are slipping away. They can not appreciate the head of the institution. They are no longer wanted.

REPUBLICAN ARGUMENT.

Tom Majors' political reversals have made him quite a funny fellow. He spoke at a meeting of the Abraham Lincoln republican club here last Saturday and in his remarks said there was no difference in the object of the different republican clubs in this city; that all were striving for good government. This sounds queer when one club is organized with the avowed object of encouraging the cleaning up of the corruption the city administration has beset the party with, while the other club is to back up the mayor and his corrupt practices. But the honorable Mr. T. J. was greeted with applause when he lauded that ludicrous statement and was so encouraged that he delivered himself of the most unique piece of humorous sarcasm ever sprung since Barby and the gang walked the plank. He said: "No man can be dishonest and be a republican." That is just the quintessence of republican argument. They employ the same deep reasoning when discussing the money question.

HOW IT WORRIES THEM.

The leading republican papers of this state are greatly exercised over the political longings of the different leading fusionists. They have had Allen warning Bryan out of the presidential nomination in 1900. Then they evince great indignation that Bryan should unceremoniously squelch the last spark of hope in the hearts of the "numerous" aspirants for congressional honors by "taking it into his head" to bask in this pleasant official radiance himself. Now they lament that there is a "disposition and cause" for Senator Allen to fear Bryan as the only man likely to have a better pull for the senatorial seat than himself. Again, they have had Bryan brutally grabbing the gubernatorial toga from the grasp of Edmisten. Weir, Gaffin and others who were pretty certain to cling successfully to their candidacy "had it not been for Bryan concluding to take it himself."

This intense excitement on the part of the republican press has failed utterly to work out the results they foolishly thought it would. The object of all this, of course, is to create jealousies. It has created nothing but laughter. The fact is, the republican leaders do not understand the fundamental difference between a republican and populist. If they did they would change their tactics. A populist is a thinking, studious, well informed citizen, and you cannot stampede him into the pit by shaking a tumbling weed at him. The childish tactics the republican leaders have so long used in rounding up the rank and file of their party will always fail diamally when applied to a populist. You have got to "show" the pop every time. He has some ideas of his own. This is where he differs from the average republican.

All this rot they are talking is a display of their own weakness. They will next be intimating that perhaps a republican will succeed to some of these coveted positions. There is probably no two other men on earth who succeed so admirably in keeping the republican wheel-horses in hot water as do Bryan and Allen.

THE AUDITOR MOORE DECISION.

The decision of the supreme court in the Eugene Moore case has been received with surprise in all circles regardless of political faith.

We are probably in close touch with the general sentiment of the people of this state when we say the decision is such as to invite wholesale plundering of the people by those placed in a position to use their official funds in deceiving the public into paying funds into their hands.

The decision points out the safety with which one may commit grand larceny or obtain money under false pretense so long as there is no statutory provision for the punishment of just such a man doing precisely this one thing in this identical manner under circumstances accurately defined and applied.

The law might provide for the punishment of a man for stealing who had one leg shorter than the other, but that provision couldn't possibly apply to a man who had one leg that was longer than the other, is the way the supreme court puts it. This is a way of juggling justice.

The supreme court also says Moore should not be punished for embezzling funds he illegally collected. The reason he should not be held to account is because he had no right to collect the funds. In other words, if a fellow commits two crimes he should go free if he can prove the first crime was committed in order to make the execution of the other possible.

The farmers of this state will hardly approve of this line of argument. They are now trying the supreme court. After all, the people are the highest court in this country. They will decide that the obtaining under false pretense of the money which he stole from the state adds guilt to Moore's acts instead of lessening his guilt. They will hold that the supreme court is "accessory after the fact" in this line of work, and will have the present element of outlawry removed from that high tribunal.

The worst feature of this decision is that it will have a tendency to increase the theft of public funds. There are hundreds of chances in county and state official business for the collection of funds by persons not entitled to do so. And after those funds have been illegally collected the holder might just as well attend for their loss his safety. Even a clerk in the treasurer's office could not be prosecuted for appropriating to his own use funds coming into his hands. He could, under this decision, escape punishment by pleading guilty but that he had no right to collect that particular money; that the money should have been paid into the treasury, not into his hands. Or he might plead that another clerk should have received it. Moore, as auditor, performed duties in other matters connected with the treasury that placed him, as the auditor really is, in the practical position of a clerk receiving money for the treasury and keeping account thereof.

To suppress robbery now it will be necessary for the treasurer to personally receive and take care of every cent that comes into the state's coffers. He must let no other living soul touch it, for if he does they are privileged to walk off with it and leave him holding the sack. Judge Sullivan, in his dissenting opinion,

thoroughly illustrates how flimsy were the grounds for reversal of the lower court's decision.

THE SOD HOUSE.

We have so far observed no arrangement for placing a sod house at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. No exhibit of Nebraska will be complete without that pioneer of the prairies—the Nebraska sod house. As no history of Nebraska will be complete which fails to describe the sod house era, so no representation of Nebraska's past struggles and present greatness will be entire without conspicuous in its foreground is placed that cradle and castle of the infant commonwealth—the frontier sod house.

Nebraska's fondest memories and dearest associations cluster around the sod house. Within its walls the men and women who have made Nebraska what she is today—the most enlightened and progressive state of the most enlightened and progressive nation on earth—have passed their childhood. The stern lessons of privation, sacrifice and constancy have been well taught behind those earthen walls. Through their windows the lamp of love, duty and patriotism has lighted up the solitude of the lonely western prairie and thrown a beacon against the western skies for the oppressed of the whole world. And from its crumbled doorway have gone forth scientists, scholars, poets, statesmen, engineers, architects, and (best of all) patriots, who have made the name and fame of Nebraska familiar in every land and every field of human energy.

It was in the sod houses of central and western Nebraska that the present great political movement for social and industrial freedom in the United States was born. The day for sneers and jeers of the Farmers' Alliance movement has long since gone by. The only serious question now regarding the place of that movement in history is whether it will be kept true to its original purposes and principles. Partisan malice and abuse cannot longer obscure the fact that a great political movement for the betterment of humanity had its origin in the sod houses of the western plains of America.

The sod house is fast disappearing from the plains. A mound of ruins and a thicket of sunflowers marks its site over three-fourths of the state. But no more typical exhibit can be made and no better tribute paid to the pioneers who have built Nebraska than to make conspicuous in Nebraska's exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition—the old sod house.

A COURT AGAINST TRUSTS.

The United States Circuit court of appeals for the sixth district in a case against the Cast Iron Pipe Trust holds that the trust is illegal. In its plan of organization the Cast Iron Pipe Trust is similar in all respects to the Sugar Trust, the Standard Oil Trust, the Coal Trust, and all other trusts. The court gives these reasons for holding that trusts are illegal:

- 1. In violation of the common law, and hence illegal and criminal, whether a statute law exists against them or not.
2. In violation of the Interstate Commerce law.
3. In violation of the Federal Antitrust law.

This decision, says the New York World, has caused a "great stir" among the trust barons and their learned legal retainers, who thought they had cleverly evaded the law in drawing up the trust agreements. Is this "great stir" the result of repentance and a high resolve to cease to belong to the criminal classes and to become law-abiding instead of law-defying citizens?

Not at all. The "great stir" is simply and solely the result of running to and fro seeking another corner where may be found an opportunity to continue their criminal career without getting into jail.

And these are the men who sit about with long faces and say morally: "The spirit of lawlessness is abroad in the land. The wicked Haves-Nots are combining against us thrifty and law-abiding Haves."

Why patronize eastern corporations and European companies. Stand up for Nebraska and Nebraska Institutions.

MORE WIND THAN BRAINS.

In the February 10 issue of the INDEPENDENT there appeared an editorial entitled, "A REPUBLICAN MAYOR AND HIS POPULIST REDECESSOR." Mr. Weir is the only populist mayor that the city of Lincoln ever had. His administration of two terms, four years, is conceded by all business men to have been a model in every respect. It was clean, it was business-like, it was economical. All populists of this city point to it with pride. In the article referred to we stated distinctly that Mr. Weir was a populist mayor. It is true that many democrats and republicans voted for him in order to secure his election; but they voted for him knowing that he was a populist.

a reform republican, we never knew that he made any claims of allegiance to the populist party until the INDEPENDENT attested to his party allegiance. Mayor Weir is just such a reformer as Gere or Joe Johnson, he thinks it ought to come without too much third partyism. In fact he has always impressed us as being a man afraid of his partyism."

To a populist in this part of the state the article seems more like a product of wind than brains. The insinuation that the editorial in the INDEPENDENT was an attempt to inaugurate a boom for Mr. Weir for governor is purely a product of the imagination of the editor of the Democrat. However, since the Democrat mentions it, we are frank to say that there are many worse things that could befall the state of Nebraska than to have ex-Mayor A. H. Weir for its governor. He is an executive officer of splendid ability. His personal character is above reproach. He is a populist. He has been a populist delegate from this county to two populist state conventions. It was Mr. Weir who placed the present state treasurer's name before the last populist convention. He has been twice chairman of populist county conventions in this county, and is one of the most regular attendants at populist primaries. What more could he do to establish his populism?

It is not the policy of the INDEPENDENT to boom any man for governor or for any other office. Readers of this paper know that it has been liberal to a fault in the publication of communications favoring candidates for nomination. A special department has been opened for that purpose. Not one line of editorial matter has appeared favoring one candidate in preference to any other. It is the duty of the state convention to select the candidate for governor. There are many good men, anyone of whom we could support with pleasure and enthusiasm. Should bad men be suggested the INDEPENDENT will not hesitate to speak its word of warning, but as between worthy and suitable candidates it does not feel that it should express a preference. In the meantime, the editor of the Democrat will bear in mind that a man is not necessarily a candidate for office simply because the INDEPENDENT reviews his public record with pride and approval.

HARDY'S COLUMN.

Miss Frances E. Willard is dead. Almost every man, woman and child on the face of the earth knows who she was and what she has done. The leader and head center of the greatest uplift of humanity of the century. To the lowly and the heart broken in the common walks of life was her mission and her ministry. Her field of labor was broader and more extended than that of any woman before her. Born in the east, reared in the west, of humble parentage, with country surroundings, attended a district school. From these starting, with her own will, intellect and heart she scaled the topmost pinnacle of heroes temple. She leaves her impress upon society as no other woman ever has. She was an all around reformer. No pent up continent hemmed her in. Unselfish as the sun and true as the stars. As pure as the snow and bright as the diamond.

The republican reform cauldron still bubbles in the city of Lincoln. But when the time comes the same kind of men will be nominated. The only way to reform is to turn every man out. How can the old suckers reform with a hundred old suckers hanging on. A new party with all new men is the only way. The rottenness at the state house never would have been discovered by republicans. The city and state are gaining republican reputation. The Eugene Moore decision will smelt to Boston.

Few men even in this land of liberty have appeared to be more the friend of the common people than of the aristocrats. It is easy to favor the lofty and the fortunate. We take pride in being noticed by a congressman or governor. Of all the men who have been honored by our people, but two have seemed to stick to and work with and for the common people. All their heads turn upwards as soon as elected. Jefferson and Lincoln stand out in bold relief as champions of the honest yeoman. It is for this that they are remembered more than for anything else. The heart of Jefferson may be seen in the declaration of independence and that of Lincoln in his Gettysburg speech. These men abhorred pomp and show what most men dearly love. They acted as though they thought the rich and strong could take care of themselves and that the poor and weak needed help if anybody. How is it at Washington today? Are they not talking and planning ways and means to elevate the banker and the aristocrat? What measure has been proposed in the interests of the common people? Who asks that the greenbacks be burned? and that the silver dollars be melted up? True greatness consists in looking upon all men as brothers and the thing most to be abhorred is giving one man or one class the advantage of another by law.

NAVAL DISASTERS.

Many Iron Clad Vessels Have Met Unexpected Destruction.

The recent disaster or "accident" to the Battleship Maine recalls many others of a similar character in which hundreds of lives have been lost and the finest boats have been ruined. Here is the record as briefly summarized by The World:

1. The British ironclad Captain, the most formidable and favorite ship in the British navy, capsized and went down in the Bay of Biscay on Sept. 7, 1871, with a loss of nearly 500 men. Her fate was the result of unseaworthiness pure and simple. She could not stand an ordi-

inary storm. There are not many instances, if there are any, where 500 men on a single ship have lost their lives in action.
2. The British ship Vanguard was very gently rammed by the Iron Duke on the 1st of September, 1875. She sank like a cracked tea-kettle, and only the calmness of the weather prevented a great loss of life. The incident demonstrated the fatal lack of buoyancy in ships of this character, their inability to remain afloat for even a brief time when once their ponderous sides are pierced.
3. This was still more disastrously demonstrated three years later when, on the 31st of May, 1878, the German ironclad Kurfurst was rammed, at slow speed and with engines reversed, by a sister ship. She sank so quickly that about 280 of her crew perished in spite of calm weather and every possible endeavor on the part of her sister ships to save life. Again a mere touch sank the ship, and her sinking was so sudden that life-saving was impossible.
4. Then came the great Victoria disaster to emphasize the lessons anew. On June 22, 1893, in a calm sea, a British fleet under direct command of Admiral Sir George Tryon attempted a manoeuvre. In the course of it the Camperdown struck the flagship Victoria. The Camperdown had a speed of only five knots, yet a few minutes after the impact the Victoria went down so suddenly that in spite of all efforts by the fleet 321 gallant officers and men were sacrificed to the sea.
5. Now comes the disaster to the Maine, involving a loss of still uncounted lives, running up into the hundreds. The Maine was lying at anchor in a quiet, land-locked harbor. An explosion occurred. Whether it was under the ship or in her is a point yet to be discovered. But after the uniform custom of ironclads she sank into the sea, carrying a large part of her crew with her to their deaths.

form only pushes them deeper down into the mud. The last crop of raw cotton sold lower than ever before and wheat will go down to low water mark as soon as the good crops from Argentine, Australia and India come on to the market. A few hundred aristocrats are bound to this country shall be pushed down to the level of Europe and that they shall have the same power to lord it over us.

The sinking of the battle ship, Maine in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, will probably always remain a mystery. Unless they find evidence of an upheaval in the bottom of the ship the conclusion will be that the explosion was from within. How it was brought about will be the mystery. The three million ship is of little account, the death loss is far greater, but the question of questions is did the Spanish do it? If wires can be traced, remains of torpedoes found or other undoubted evidence things will hum in short meter. It can't be that the Spanish are such fools as to think that sinking one war ship will break Uncle Samuel's back.

This hemisphere ought to do as much for republics as the old world does for kingdoms and empires. We are more deeply interested in Cuba's being an independent republic than all the rest of the world is in having her anything else. And why our authorities at Washington do not give the Cubans the rights ofelligerents we cannot see. The only plausible reason yet given is, that several hundred millions of Spanish bonds are held by rich men in New York and London and Cuba is the only source of revenue Spain has, hence if Cuba should become independent the bonds would never be paid. These New York and London bond holders put hot blocks to McKinley's feet every night and he does not dare to cross their interest. They hypnotize him as they did Cleveland.

WILL CLAIM INDEMNITY.

President McKinley Will Demand \$15,000,000 From Spain

It has been reported from Washington by credible and reliable reporters that should it be proved that the Battleship Maine was destroyed by an outside explosion, with the knowledge of Spanish officials, President McKinley will demand an indemnity of from \$13,000,000 to \$15,000,000. At a conference of the president and cabinet officials all expressed the opinion that the Spanish government was bound to protect the vessels of a friendly nation in one of its harbors, and that, if the Maine was destroyed by a submarine mine or torpedo, whether with the knowledge of officials or not, that government must be responsible. The value of the vessel is estimated at \$5,000,000. The rest is to be paid to relatives of officers and men who lost their lives by the destruction of the vessel.

To Raise the Maine.

The Merritt & Chapman Derrick and Wrecking company have signed contracts with the government to raise the Battleship Maine. Their most powerful tug, the Monarch, now at New York, will proceed at once to Havana. The Monarch will be followed by other tugs and the work will begin as soon as possible. Two expert divers will accompany the Monarch with all the necessary apparatus.

Coal Trust in Ohio.

A new trust has been organized. It is known as the Central Coal and Coke company. It is incorporated under the laws of Ohio, and its headquarters will be Columbus. The capital stock is \$100,000, but this is a nominal figure, and the real capitalization is not yet known. It is understood that prices will be raised and that the coal carrying roads in Ohio will be allowed an increase in rates after the settlement of the proposed strike of miners in eastern Ohio, which is scheduled for April 1. The strike was decided at the recent convention of the Pennsylvania miners' association held in Pittsburgh.

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