

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

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

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The war talk has shut the Hamilton club out of public consideration the past week.

It was a dirty trick for Excise-man Vaill to lay the blame of his exit from official life at the door of his wife. Even Byers wouldn't take such an unmanly stand. Graham hasn't any real wife. Probably he will lay his official downfall to Bud Lindsay.

George Wells, of the Central City Democrat, thinks we had better hunt up a couple of justices of the peace and put them on the Nebraska supreme court bench to help Judge Sullivan decide cases according to reason, justice and common sense.

An official position under the present city administration places a fellow under a disagreeable light. It brands a fellow as a sort of chattel in the mayor's kennel. It inclines to a belief that such a one gives all he makes, except his daily allowance of pottage, over to the mayor as the price of his job. We ain't "stuck" on ourself, but we wouldn't hold a job under Mayor Graham.

All who voted for Graham supported his policy. His policy was outlined in the campaign. It was the "wide open" policy. It was the policy of allowing houses of prostitution to run open so long as they paid a certain amount or per cent over to the city school fund. In other words, the people voting for this policy wanted to be "head push" of these houses themselves. They must have the first whack at the money taken in, then the "landlady" could take her share, leaving the remainder of the vice-besmeared price of woman's shame to be divided between the "girls" and the "pimps."

The dispatches from Washington to the republican papers in this state tell a livid tale of how Congressman W. L. Greene of Nebraska, was eaten up on the floor of congress Tuesday by a fellow named Shattuck from Ohio. The story reads well at long range, but somehow awakens no hilarity on the part of well-known republican orators of Nebraska. By the way, there is one F. W. Collins, now of Washington, formerly of Lincoln, who held a joint debate with Greene at Wahoo a few years ago. Collins is really an able speaker, but when you ask any of the Wahoo republicans about that debate there is a painful lack of interest.

There seems to be poor sanitary regulations around the city government headquarters. This should be investigated. Still, some investigating has been done, and until this investigating commenced the sanitary defects had not resulted in a single case of sickness. Now, there was Water Commissioner Byers. He was lead to resign on account of failing health. The next to succumb to the unhealthy atmosphere was Excise-man Vaill. Mayor Graham has been exposed to the tainted influences, but he has as yet shown no signs of letting loose of the mayoralty in anticipation of failing health. In fact the mayor has been exposed to everything from the hoof and mouth disease to the bad horrors produced from consumption of nigger whiskey and has placed some bets on all turns. Those who know him best say he always plays his hand out whether he wins or loses.

It is about time for the management of our state university to begin dealing frankly with the people. The attempts during the past year to conceal the truth are sure to react on the institution in the future. The students may not always know the entire truth, but they are sufficiently alive to know that the reports regarding dismissals of teachers and employees are not true reports; that the semblance of harmony in faculty and among students conceals the deepest distrust; that the facts given out from the executive office regarding the magnitude of the university are magnified. The students are the best advocates any school can have.

What was their report to the people of the state last summer? What will they say about the moral atmosphere of university life next summer? If they have confidence in the chancellor they can almost win an appropriation during the summer months, but if they lack confidence in the management of the institution, who will speak for it before the next legislature? Moral deficiency cannot be compensated by flattery or even by intellectual shrewdness. Politicians may suggest silence, but silence never yet secured an appropriation.

NO CURRENCY LEGISLATION.

It is the first week in March. Tom Reed is due to adjourn congress in June. There is no currency legislation in sight, and none will be. After all the gatherings at Indianapolis; after all the dinner orations of Secretary Gage and President McKinley; the solemn vows and sacrifices upon the altar of bank money monopoly, the present administration is up a stump on the currency question and will stay there until next fall.

The plain, painful truth is that the republican party is split up the back on the currency question. It can neither advance or go backward without wrecking its organization, and so it shivers on the bank like a boy about to take his farewell swim in the autumn. After weeks of work the twelve republican members of the house committee on banking and currency are utterly unable to agree on a bill to reform the currency. A sub-committee of three is equally unable to agree. There is a natural reason for this. Self-preservation is the first law of politics as well as of nature. Republican congressmen do not dare face their constituents for re-election upon a record of destruction of government paper currency and bank monopoly of money. So many of them have absolutely balked that it has become necessary to postpone the whole program until after the fall elections. If the event of those elections is the defeat of a large number of the present congressmen, it is evident that all the pressure of money, office and influence will be brought to bear to force some scheme similar to that outlined by Secretary Gage, through congress then.

There is plainly a large division in the republican party against these bank monopoly plans. That division is the hope of the country. With two or three strong courageous leaders (men who supported McKinley in 1896, but who will refuse to obey the orders of the associated banks at this crisis.) it may break the republican ranks as the old whig party broke on the question of the extension of slavery and lead to the organization of the new party that can harmoniously invite all honest currency voters. The action of the gold democrats in refusing to join the republican party is very significant. Their return to the regular democratic organization in many states equally so. Their joining the republicans would drive out thousands of republican greenbackers, who have staid in the party for the sake of tariff, and old associations. It would never do to drive the wedge deeper into the G. O. P. It is absolutely necessary to keep the friends of a straight government currency divided. Hence the republican managers must play for time and hope for the development of some question that will distract public attention from the money question.

ABOUT INSURANCE FEES.

Since the supreme court has turned Ex-Auditor Eugene Moore loose, giving as its reason for doing so that Mr. Moore had no authority under the law to receive the fees and therefore could not be guilty of embezzlement, the republican press of the state have pretended to be frantic with fear because Mr. Cornell, the present auditor, had accepted fees from insurance companies.

The York Times has apparently been more worried than any. In its issue of February 14 it says:

It has been decided in the Eugene Moore case that the auditor has no right to accept the fee from insurance companies nor to issue them their certificates until they have paid the money into the state treasury and have the treasurer's receipt. Still it appears that the populist auditor is not only receiving this money, but retaining it, just as Eugene Moore did. He probably intends to pay it over to the state some time, just as Eugene Moore intended to do, and did do with part of it, and Mr. Cornell may be more fortunate than Mr. Moore was in being able to raise the money. But he has broken the law and is already just as much of a criminal as Eugene Moore, if he has ever received the money, which he admits in his report.

In another place it says: Will Mr. Meserve please inform the public whether or not Mr. Cornell continues to collect insurance fees against the laws of the state, "to accommodate the insurance companies." Mr. Liedtke and Mr. Moore both accommodated the insurance companies in this way and Mr. Cornell does not seem to want to be outdone in kindness.

As usual, the Times is attempting to deceive its readers. It would lead them to believe that Auditor Cornell has collected fees for the state from insurance companies and used them for his personal use. The Times knows that Auditor Cornell has turned over all fees which he has collected to the state treasurer, and that as fast as they were collected. In most instances Mr. Cornell turned over the original checks and drafts which he received from the insurance companies, over to the treasurer without even having them cashed. In some instances, when they were drawn upon unknown institutions or by unknown individuals the treasurer would not receive them and issue a receipt for them until Mr. Cornell had them cashed. In such cases Mr. Cornell deposited the checks in a bank for collection. Any busi-

ness man would have done the same thing. The Times says that "Mr. Cornell probably intends to pay the money over to the state," when it knows that Mr. Cornell has paid every cent of it over to the state already. Since Mr. Cornell has been auditor he has received \$28,566 for fees. The records show that he has turned the same amount over to the state treasurer. It is contemptible journalism that tries to lessen Mr. Moore's crime by attempting to blacken the character of an honest and capable public official.

Mr. Cornell has performed his duties faithfully and has accounted to the state for every penny that has been paid to him. The citizens of Nebraska ask nothing more than that.

PLANNING FOR PLUNDER.

The present prospect for war is calling forth considerable comment. The traitors are planning for plunder. The Portland Oregonian is one of the staunchest gold standard republican papers in the country. The Chicago Tribune is recognized as one of the leading organs of the gold standard advocates in the west. In its issue of February 26 the Tribune published upon its editorial page the following quotation from the Oregonian:

We do not want war. Yet there are possible compensations in it. It would turn the thoughts of our people away from visionary speculations to serious subjects. It might prove the means of enforcing various reforms, not possible without it. It might put an end to various socialistic and monetary crazes. It might tend to enforcement through necessity, of rational economy in official service, in the pensions, and in diverse other ways. It certainly would recall the minds of our people to seriousness. It probably would put a large proportion of our brawlers under military discipline and shut their mouths. In all this it is not to be denied that there are possibilities of gain.

The Tribune and Oregonian should be careful lest they "jump at conclusions." It is true that the plan outlined by them was successfully put through during the civil war. The men who stayed at home and manipulated bonds plundered the government more than its enemies. All that is history now, but it has been thoroughly taught and instilled into the minds of the present generation. It would be a dangerous proceeding for any set of men to attempt to take advantage of a war with a foreign power to "more firmly establish the gold standard" or any other standard. The Tribune and Oregonian suggest that certain "reforms" could be enforced in the event of raising the army that could not be enforced without it. They seem to imagine that the army would be as thoroughly under the control of the money power as the administration and regulars are at the present time. They say "it would shut the mouths of the brawlers," brawlers, like those who have and would again fight for the preservation of the nation. Those aristocratic sheets forget that to raise the army of "brawlers" means to put a rapid firing gun and a hundred rounds of ammunition in the hands of everyone of them. They forget that an army in rebellion would be worse than a mere uprising of the people. Its revenge upon those who would plunder the government in time of war would be swift and sure.

Again they say "it would force economy in the pension department." Why this sudden change. A few years ago the republican party was the party for pensions. It boasted of its gratitude to those who had saved the nation. Now when the survivors of the war are passing away, when their votes are diminished and are disappearing, the republican party through its official organs is turning its back upon the veterans. It is an act of double ingratitude. It was the ex-soldiers of the union army that gave to the republican party all the glory that it ever possessed. It was the illustrious leaders of the union army that made it a power in the land. It is base ingratitude to desert the few survivors who need the protection of the government more than ever before. The pension system is a commendable one.

Liberality of the nation at this time to those who offered their services for its defense is an earnest that he who volunteers to defend his country will have the material gratitude of the nation in after years, that if he suffers disablement his country will support him, that if he is killed, leaving a widow and orphans, such widow shall be kept from want and the orphans made the nation's wards until they are old enough to support themselves, is an effective way of ensuring a ready and cheerful response whenever in the future, in an hour of trouble, the nation may have need of calling for volunteers for its defense. Pensions disbursed freely in times of peace to the nation's defenders will serve to obviate the need of paying bounties for enlistment in time of war, when such bounties can ill be spared.

It is of course true that there are thousands to-day who would enlist at their country's call and for their country's defense without thought of bounty or pay or future reward. But there are thousands of others equally as patriotic who would feel free to enlist with the knowledge that the country has treated its defenders and the widows and orphans of its defenders liberally in the past, and convinced that the nation would act as liberally in the future, who would not feel free to enlist without some bounty by which they could make at least temporary provision for their

families in case of accident on the battlefield. If the nation had acted niggardly in the past and made no provision for those whose breadwinners went to the front never to return or return disabled—The payment of pensions to widows and for the maintenance of the orphans of those who served in the last war, is a pledge that the nation will do the same in the future, and with this pledge men with families will feel free to enlist in their country's defense assured that, if anything should happen to them, that if death or disablement should deprive their families of their support, their wives would at least be kept from want and a pension paid for the maintenance of their children until old enough to look out for themselves. So in paying pensions of this kind at this time we are not only requiting a sacred obligation, but we are making the best of preparations for some hour of future need. In short, the paying of pensions that so many complain of as wasteful, adds greatly to the military strength of the nation, increases the number of men ready to respond at any time at the nation's call.

One of the principal causes for the agitation in the east for a curtailment of the pension appropriations is that the greater part of the money expended for pensions is sent to the west and central west. After the abandonment of the army a large majority of the soldiers came west, took homesteads and live here yet. In that way the pension money is brought to the west. In order to increase its popularity in the east the republican party proposes to desert its oldest friends. It would forget the gratitude a nation owes its defenders. It would forget the gratitude a political party owes to its founders, and how in humble submission before the aristocracy of the east. It is a shameful spectacle to set up before the rising generation.

THE WAY RICH MEN FIGHT.

In the Sunday press dispatches the following was given to the world by Russell Sage:

"Whatever action, war or otherwise, President McKinley may take, he should and will have the fullest support from both rich and poor, republicans and democrats. There is no question as to where the rich man stands. In the civil war, when it broke out, I bought government bonds, and I did the same in 1864. So did other rich men. We had confidence in our government. If the necessity arises now I will do the same again generously, so will other rich men I know of."

This part of his interview was preceded with an avowal that the government should act immediately in the Cuban-Maine affair.

Yes, Sage and his ilk are ready to fight in case of war. They did in the sixties, too. They are taking no personal or pecuniary risks, though. Neither are they fighting the foreigners. They stay at home and fight the American people and rob them of their liberty while they are at the front defending the nation's honor. They see a fat thing in the bonds to be issued to carry on the war, and they are red hot for war.

If they have such "confidence" in the government why do they deny the people the right to affirm their "confidence" in the government by accepting the government greenback without interest as a means of rendering it financial assistance in its troublous times? The rich have "confidence" in the government's promise to pay if the interest coupon is attached, but if it only promises to make good the principal they have no "confidence." Can the government pay both principal and interest more easily than it can pay principal alone? Is the government's promise to pay the bond holder millions any better than its promise to pay the holder of a common five-dollar government note?

They are keen on this bond business. They are following up the scent at a reckless gait, as is attested in the following continuation of the dispatch:

"The Evening World says that Senator Hanna was in conference last evening with a number of representatives of financial institutions, and that he was given to understand by them that the administration could depend upon all the money support necessary to carry out any plan of action that might be determined upon. According to the Evening World, a series of bond issues aggregating \$500,000,000 was suggested as a possibility and was acquiesced in by the assembled financiers."

Here they have specified the amount of fighting they would like to do. Five hundred million dollars in bonds would not shake their "confidence." It would strengthen their belief in the stability of the government.

Here we have the spectacle of those men who have accumulated all their vast wealth through interest on government bonds now humbling the government in an offer predated with a statement that they "think the government could pay it back all right"—an offer to stake the beggarly spendthrift once more. There is nothing within the bounds of this nation that the government cannot pay its hands upon and convert to its use if need be in time of war. It can draft its citizens and order them into the thick of the fight where their lives are as uncertain as sunbeams in March. Why can it not also take the millions of gold those stay-at-homes have shored from its pockets? Is human life less sacred in the eyes of this government than paltry dollars? Morally it should not be so. If the government's dollars are not so good as the dollars of the millionaire, then let the government forest its supremacy over the millionaire and ex-

change its dollars at par with his. If it will not do this, let it issue its non-interest bearing bonds—its greenbacks—to the common people in meeting its obligations. The common people have a "confidence" in the government that is not gauged by the amount of interest that "confidence" will yield.

The Sages bought bonds in the sixties and the government has been paying them off ever since, yet the government owes them more today than when the bonds were first issued—more hours work, more of everything that the people produce and exchange in liquidation of indebtedness. Yet the bondholders still have confidence, increasing confidence.

WE ARE BROTHEL PROPRIETORS.

"Captain Otto and Officer Bonnelle, who has taken Officer Snell's place, made the rounds last night and notified thirty women of the town to contribute to the school fund."

The above is clipped from the columns of the Sunday morning Journal. It is similar to others which have appeared in that and other papers of this city at intervals of about a week. It is the routine work of the administration policy. This policy received the support of the church membership and the ministry. That is, with little exception. All the large churches and their fashionable membership went into it with vim. It is true that some of the smaller churches toward the outskirts of town protested against the iniquitous policy, but their small protest was smothered beneath the enthusiastic support of the more powerful religious organizations, led by Dr. Lushy, given the candidacy of the administration running on a pledge to elevate vice and trample down virtue. The administration outlined its policy when before the people for election, and the ministers of this city stood up in the pulpit and lauded it to the temporary exclusion of God's word from their sermons. They made an open fight in the pulpit for Graham. Their efforts to elevate this policy of vice to supremacy over morality was successful. Now let them review and defend their work.

The principle of levying tribute on prostitution for any purpose is too vile to need rebuke or comment in the public press. But when these things are practiced and sanctioned in all sections, circles and homes, the ascendancy of vice over virtue has become so general and widely recognized and acquiesced in that decent people are awed and abashed into silence. It would seem, truly, that this latter element is an infinitesimal constituent in society of today, and it is probably argued that its being hopelessly in the minority bars it from active participation in shaping public sentiment.

Mothers—silver-locked, sedate, pure, Good-fearing matronly mothers—read the above item Sunday morning as dessert after their morning bible lesson. The bible lesson and the item were digested as equally good things. Both strong elements in character-building and educational advancement. Their handsome young daughters read it, too. Then they all veiled their faces in hypocritical sanctimoniousness and went forth to church. All knew the preacher had read the item, or similar ones, many times. They knew his silence gave his approval to the licensing of prostitution and moral debauchery as a means of raising funds to defray the expense of his children's education and the expense of the education of the children of his parish. They knew a body of ministers in this town had complained that these women were not paying enough for the privileges they enjoyed. Yet they knelt down in God's temple and lamented that so many were outside the church, sinners unreconciled to God. They laid bare the gaping crevices in their hearts—the havoc wrought therein by the stubborn blindness of the thousands who had failed to come into the church and be saved. They never once hinted that their own licensing of vice kept more out of the church than all other agents of the devil combined. But the church not only keeps outsiders out by this means, but teaches its young members to distrust the sincerity of its sages in their pleas for uprightness and moral integrity. These daughters wonder that their mother should—apparently good woman that she is—receive willingly the price of a prostitute's traffic as the part of her income allotted to advancing their education. They wonder that their minister receives these revenues to sustain the greatest adjunct to the fabric of religion. They end by concluding that either the religion is a farce and a cloak for iniquity or else prostitution and drunken debauchery isn't such a bad thing after all. This is too frequently the awful terminus of their investigation.

It really seems difficult to ascertain, here in Lincoln, just where the road to heaven branches off from the road to hell. That they both start out between the same rows of hedges is certain. That the same road is traveled by the church and the brothel is undeniable. That they have not parted company as yet is never questioned.

Really, when we as a people receive revenue from houses of prostitution we occupy the position of head of the dooms, under us is the "landlady," under her the "pimp." Only those who vote and work against such a public policy are exempt from this charge.

A newspaper is a necessity.

THE REFERENDUM AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

The way legislation by the people works is well exemplified by the following cablegram from Switzerland:

Berns, Switzerland, Feb. 20.—The referendum has resulted in popular approval of the proposed state purchase of the railroads of Switzerland at a cost of about 1,000,000,000 francs (\$200,000,000). The vote was 384,146 in favor to 177,130 against.

The referendum approves the bill passed in October last by the national council by a vote of 98 to 29. According to recent official returns there are 2,304 miles of railroad open for traffic in Switzerland, on the five principal lines. The government is projecting a loan for the purchase.

If the people of the United States were permitted to vote upon the question of public ownership we do not doubt they would cast a large majority in favor of the proposition. Or if the people of Nebraska and the other states crossed by those lines had been permitted to choose whether they should pay off the first mortgage on the Union Pacific and Kansas Pacific roads or permit them to be sold to a corporation at a loss of \$7,000,000—who doubts what their decision would have been.

Rumor overwhelms us with reasons for the resignation of the chancellor's chief clerk and secretary of the faculty. The various reasons seem so well adapted to different classes of people that one suspects they have all emanated from the head of the university on different occasions in accordance with his well known policy of adapting the facts to suit the circumstances. Some of the more authentic stories are admirably characteristic of the diplomat. "The secretary resigned because she and the registrar could not get along together." This would be sufficient reason for the board of regents. Is it true? "The whole affair has come down from the former administration. Chancellor Canfield was a peculiar man." "The secretary preferred a wider field,"—as stenographer in a small office on about two-thirds her former salary. The variety of reasons arouses suspicion. The attempt to pass the matter off as an ordinary occurrence resulting in advantage to the young lady are palpably dishonest. Women, dependent upon their own labor, do not leave the employ of the state to accept positions with private parties at less salary without sufficient reason. Can it be that incompatibility exists between the chancellor of the university and any other persons connected with that institution? Was Professor Card altogether satisfied with his treatment at the hands of the university management? We wonder why the professor of horticulture resigned.

When Treasurer J. B. Meserve took charge of the state treasurer's office there was \$49,774.73 of temporary university fund warrants "not paid for want of funds." In other words the fund owed nearly \$50,000. To-day (March 1) this indebtedness is entirely paid and Mr. Meserve pays cash for university fund warrants as soon as they are presented. The process of registering "not paid" or want of funds" has been dispensed with. With a man like Treasurer Meserve in charge of the state's finances its credit is unquestioned.

ECHOES FROM LITTLE SALT.

They got the news down to the store: The supreme court turned loose Eugene Moore, [An' Cuba's starvin' yit an' Spain come an' blowed up our warship Maine; Gage an' McKinley and Tom Reed put their heads together'n agreed, no matter what the contracts hold, we've got to pay them bonds in gold, except Joe Bartley's bonds—somehow, nobody says nothing there now.]

Cap Price spoke first: "From whereas to amen I've been a black republican—voted for Fremont—[John P. Hale] fit thru the war an' been in jail for helpin' niggers free and loose—[but this dose surely cooks my goose.]"

Old Fritz struck with his Prussian fist The counter—"Donnerwetter, wie dot ist—"

Dot kann leh nicht verstaten viel— He daken dot money, but don't steal! Dot supreme court yet makes it out Kraut ist nicht kraut in sauer kraut. Ain't it? Pf-at! One Dutchman here. Make dot court sauer kraut next year.

"Ay ban long times dies countra har," har."

Swan Swanson said, "bout fourteen yar."

Work avers day an' make no harm Now ma wife say: "Swan you be fool, An' vote for dees republican. Who steal it all away agin? Now when she hear 'em all you free bound too, she make et hot for me."

Then up spoke Irish Pat McGuire. His very brogue abash with ire: "It's sold the countra is—it's sold To bondholders an' bags of gold. The boys that sleep beneath the bay Drowned for a Spanish holiday, Ireland and Cuba still in chains, Ould England aughtin' at their pains, How long, how long shall those things be, Land of the daring an' the free?" Little Salt Precinct, March 1, 1898.

TREES AND PLANTS

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