

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

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THEORY AND PRACTICE.

Men do not always practice precepts which they teach. This is well illustrated by Thomas B. Reed, the present czar of the house of representatives.

When Anaxagoras, twenty-four centuries ago, in Athens itself, in the cultured days of Pericles, declared that the heavens were a solid vault and the sun was a great stone on fire...

Thomas E. Watson has declined the populist nomination for governor of Georgia, giving as his reason that no matter how the votes were cast, he would be counted out by the democratic election majority.

The attention of our readers is called to the article entitled "Buying Railroads." It illustrates the practical benefits of the referendum.

In city and village elections it is time for populists everywhere to take organized action along one of two lines, either to secure a union of all progressive elements upon a platform of populist principles...

It has been suggested by the Schuyler Quill that Mr. O. Nelson of Colfax county would make a strong candidate for state auditor in case Auditor Cornell is re-nominated.

Perhaps no marvel of science has excited the wonderment of those familiar with its phenomena more than the homeward flight of the carrier pigeon.

MARK HANNA'S BARE OFF. The navy department has closed a contract for 350,000 tons of coal to be delivered at such points and at such times as the department shall hereafter designate.

known, retained through all the close confinement of his railway journey; as it is a power of sight more than marvelous combined with a reasoning power more than human?

Whatever we call the innate quality of the bird, it is to man that it owes its development and its usefulness. Like the instinct of the honey bee and the silk worm, long generations of natural selection, carefully watched over and directed by man, have made it serviceable.

The speed of a carrier pigeon on its homeward journey is almost incomprehensible. A bird named Lady Gainsville, owned by Mr. James McGauky, flew 614 miles in fourteen hours.

The value of such birds in war is apparent. An American scouting vessel on the sea, desiring to deliver a message in haste concerning the movement of the enemy's fleet, would attach his message to a carrier pigeon and send it on its journey home.

BONDHOLDERS AND GUNHOLDERS. Governor Pingree of Michigan supported the gold standard national ticket in 1896. Whether he has repented of his action then or not, he has certainly given abundant evidence since that he does not belong to the monopoly forces which control the republican party at the present time.

Speaker Reed's conduct of the house of representatives may be wise and satisfactory to some or even to a majority of the people but the precedent it establishes involves very great dangers. Mr. Reed explains and justifies his methods by saying that large numbers of bills and a great amount of business with which the house is confronted makes it necessary for some one to select the most important for would be accomplished.

One notable instance where the speaker has shown his power has been in dealing with the Cuban troubles. Through his power he has prevented the recognition of the independence of the island.

It made a convenience of \$37.47 to Governor Pingree and a disservice of \$500,224,853.31 to the entire union army. It would now take \$6,420.38 to pay Governor Pingree the difference, with 2 per cent interest, payable semi-annually and compounded, and it

would take \$1,288,408,074.47 to pay the entire army on the same basis.

It is a good thing for Governor Pingree to revive this question which populists and greenbackers pressed upon the public for years. It is an especially good time to revive it when the president of this nation is declaring in the most public manner his purpose to pay the bonded debt of this country in gold.

THE POWER OF THE SPEAKER.

It has been said that the best form of government is a kingdom with a good king. As a form of government it fails because it is impossible to always secure a good king, and a bad king wrecks the government, takes all power into his own grasp and endangers the liberties of the people.

Herbert Spencer once very truly said: "It is this easy-going submission to trespasses, it is this easy-going readiness to permit trespasses, because it would be troublesome or unprofitable to oppose them, which leads to the habit of acquiescence in wrong and leads to the decay of free institutions.

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The hour was that in the day which property belonged to such base men. Speaker Reed was in the chair, so happened that there was a un-

mentary lull in the business of the house. The leader of the opposition was known to have on his desk a resolution recognizing Cuban belligerency.

"Mr. Speaker," he said, as he arose to his feet. "The floor was almost clear, and the figure of the gentleman demanding the speaker's recognition stood out conspicuously. The distinguished gentleman whose name is so closely identified with tariff measures, Mr. Dingley, sat at his desk absorbed in some figures and oblivious of all things around him.

"Mr. Speaker," repeated Mr. Bailey, the leader of the opposition. "The eye of the speaker was fixed intently upon an immense perspective which seemed to lie beyond the head of the gentleman from Maine. Suddenly his lips moved with the formula: 'The gentleman from Maine moves that the house do now adjourn. Do I hear a second?' The motion is seconded. The question is now on the question to adjourn. All in favor will say aye. Those opposed no. The ayes have it. The house stands adjourned."

This was certainly an instance where the speaker prevented any action being taken by the house upon a very important matter. He gives as his reason that the house would have taken an improper course. In other words he asserted that his judgment is better than the judgment of the members elected by the people to represent them in the national congress.

Congress can remedy the evil if it will do so. It should take from the speaker the power to appoint committees. It should adopt the method of the senate and elect them. Rules should be provided that would secure the minority party in a fair representation upon these committees.

A great deal of literature is being published by the self-styled "sound money league," to prove that paper currency is dangerous and unsafe. The very men who are publishing this stuff are besieging congress with a bill for more paper money. The beginning and the end of their financial schemes is the demand for paper money.

Those who have marked the condition of affairs in Pennsylvania (editorially commented upon last week) will not be surprised at the failure of one of the political banks in Philadelphia last week with \$500,000 of state funds involved.

The Lincoln city election Tuesday resulted in a gain of three councilmen for the reform forces and a still further cutting down of the republican majority. Within a few years this majority will have been near 2,000. Now it lingers around 300, and grows smaller with each election.

A CURRENCY BILL.

The republican majority upon the house committee of banking and currency have at last agreed on a bill.

There is no prospect of the bill being passed at the present session but just as a sample of what the republican party can produce in the way of a scheme for currency legislation we give a synopsis of the principal features as follows:

- 1. United States notes, when redeemed in gold, to be retired. Retirement, however, to be gradual. No express provision for bonds or taxes to provide for retirement.
2. All outstanding United States notes to be collected by the banks and deposited at the treasury, the banks receiving in exchange an equal amount of "National Reserve Notes," and the privilege of issuing another equal amount of currency notes secured by their general assets.
3. These additional currency notes secured by the general assets of the bank are to be practically untaxed up to 60 per cent of the receiving bank's capital. Issues in excess of 60 per cent of the banks' capital are to be taxed 2 per cent, and issues in excess of 80 per cent of the banks' capital are to be taxed 6 per cent. These provisions are to secure elasticity.
4. The whole responsibility of redeeming United States notes in gold is to be imposed upon the banks, but the government, by this same act, undertakes to redeem standard silver dollars in gold.
It will pay our readers to study up these points and invite their republican neighbors to do the same thing. All the old devil's ear marks will be observed. The scheme is to retire the greenback and let the banks issue paper currency on their assets. The provision for issuing bonds to take the place of the greenbacks has been omitted because of the storm of opposition it has aroused. It can be supplied later on if this bill gets through. At present all the energies of the money power are concentrated on the greenback. It hates that little slip of paper bearing the stamp of the people's authority with an intensity only matched by the hatred of the secessionist during the war.

HARDY'S COLUMN.

Running for Office—Republican Reform—Losing Their Best Men The War.

The writer of this column begs to be excused this week. He has been running for office; or, rather, his party has been running him, for his name was put on the ticket without his knowledge or consent. But he got licked as usual, where the republicans number two to one. But, notwithstanding this big majority, he carried his own precinct by a good round majority. He would much rather be beaten everywhere else than at home. He is proud of the confidence of his near neighbors.

Another city election has come and gone. The republicans washed up and promised reform again. How long it will last remains to be seen. Rogues always repent when they are caught. They used lots of money, as usual, while not a cent was used by the fusion people's party, not even for carriages. Now, all the money spent will have to be stolen back out of the taxpayers. But the people ought to have what they vote for. They demanded, three years ago, a wide-open administration, and got it, but all at once got sick of their own lads. Now they have just got ready to keep things clean. They promise to enforce the law, protect the morals and run things economically.

The republicans are all turn up and as mad as wet hens to think all their best men are wandering away from the party fold. Graham and Parker are no more to be relied upon in city politics. It is just so in state politics. Their old and tried leaders are sinking out of sight or into the pen. When all their best men go, what will be left?

The war cloud seems to be breaking away and it will vanish as soon as the money power of both continents get their securities all right. The starving Cubans are not taken into account, neither is the freedom of Cuba. Humanity, civilization and liberty will get nothing, while the money power will get everything. At least, it so looks at this time.

EXODUS FROM HAVANA.

Navy Persons Are Preparing to Leave—Vessels Sent to Bring Them Away.

HAVANA, April 6.—The Mangrove and the Bahia are expected here today to take to Key West such Americans as desire to go. Consul General Lee has been authorized to hire merchant vessels, if necessary, and will probably employ the steamer Florida, of the coast line, due here to-day, the Mascotte, which is due here Wednesday, and the Olivette, which is due for an extra trip on Thursday. The Fern will remain here, so far as is known.

American citizens only will be given passage on the Mangrove and Bahia. Others, if their passports and vaccination certificates are all right, can leave on the Mascotte or Olivette. To all appearances, a normal state of affairs prevails in Havana. The impression is abroad among business men here that the prospects for peace have grown more favorable, the general idea seeming to be that foreign intervention will result in the solution of all problems with honor to both nations.