

The Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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About 170,000 pounds of red-hot argument will be shipped to Dewey from the Mare Island navy yard at once.—Scribner News.

The Sholby Sun clings to the good old way and continues to publish Talmage's sermons, top of column, next to pure reading matter.

Judge Tarpening of Saunders county was in the city this week. He says that J. N. Gaffin is the unanimous choice of the reform forces in that county for governor.

The Scribner News still stands by its guns and has nailed to the masthead the following declaration of principles: "For president in 1900, William J. Bryan of Nebraska. Platform—16 to 1 without any more delay or dampishness."

The populist party is growing in the south. Says the last issue of the people's Party Paper:

"Do you know that 7 of the most active Senators in the Georgia Senate in 1897 were populists; that 27 of the House Representatives were populists; that of the 134 counties in Georgia, more than one third have all populist county officials and another third several populist officials."

It is stated on reliable authority that the non-combatants in Cuba, known as reconcentrados, consisting of women, children and old men, will nearly all starve to death before aid can reach them. About 75,000 of these people are supposed to be in or near Havana and the Spanish soldiers have seized all supplies for their own use. If this is true, one object of the war, that of saving the starving Cubans, will never be accomplished. It seems that only those who are in the field under arms will live to see the freedom of Cuba for which so many have suffered and died.

Last week we gave a statement of our trade with Spain. There never was enough of it to brag about, and it has been growing less with every year. The latest figures of our Cuban trade possess more interest. In 1893 our total trade with Cuba amounted to \$102,000,000. For the present fiscal year it is less than \$20,000,000. In 1894 we imported two billion pounds of sugar from Cuba. The past year it is less than one-fourth that amount. In 1896 we sold \$5,000,000 worth of lard in Cuba—the present year none. We sent 6,000,000 pounds of ham and 4,000,000 of bacon to Cuba every year until the present. In potatoes, peas, beans, and other vegetables our shipments formerly reached near \$2,000,000. Now, what we send is charity. And this is the product of European rule on American soil.

The editor of the INDEPENDENT, Captain Frank D. Eager, Co. H, First Nebraska Volunteers, is on his way to the far off Philippines to assist in upholding the arms and the honor of his country. Mr. Eager has been a member of the Nebraska National Guard for many years and held the rank of captain for most of the time. At the beginning of the present trouble he was a first lieutenant and was promoted by Governor Holcomb to fill a vacancy and because of his long and efficient service in the state militia. Those whom he has left behind will spare no effort to keep the INDEPENDENT up to the standard of the past and to retain the good will and esteem of its many friends. We earnestly hope that the Nebraska boys, one and all, will see a short and glorious campaign and that if they must fight, they may be able to emulate the redoubtable Dewey in achieving great victories with so little injury to themselves. In a thousand Nebraska homes eyes and ears of loved ones left behind, are strained to catch the first intelligence from our gallant boys in blue, who are journeying over the hills and valleys, the rivers and mountains, and the rolling waves of a mighty ocean to meet a foreign foe and prove their patriotism, if used by, with their lives. Only he who notes the sparrows fall will keep a record of the silent prayers that rise from trembling lips and aching hearts from those so far away. God grant that they may all come marching home again with the old flag, white and blue and with their hearts as light and true as when they said good bye and turned their faces to the distant west.

TWO SYSTEMS COMPARED

Chairman Wolfe and Secretary Porter of the State Board of public lands and buildings, have just returned from inspecting improvements at Hastings and Kearney at the state institutions. New stand-pipes have been erected at both places this summer and a comparison of the cost and efficiency of the old plants and the new will be of interest to the tax-payers of the state.

The old stand-pipe at the Kearney boys' industrial school was erected in 1889 by the republican state board. It was a wood tank holding 1000 barrels of water, was set at an elevation of 50 feet, lasted nine years and cost 4,000. It has been so rotten as to be positively dangerous for two years past. The new stand-pipe just completed is 12 feet in diameter, 110 feet high, holds 3,000 barrels, has twice the water pressure for fire protective purposes of the old one and will last fifty years. It cost in round numbers \$3,700.

At the Hastings insane asylum the old wood tank that looked like a pigeon house on a pole; held just 500 barrels at an elevation of 50 feet and was expected to supply the water for the largest state institution in Nebraska. It lasted nine years and cost \$2100. The new steel stand-pipe, 12 feet in diameter and 110 feet high holds 3000 barrels and cost the state \$3,400.

These two instances are typical ones of two systems of conducting state business. Voters which do you prefer?

STATE SCHOOL MONEY.

The semi-annual appropriation of school money was made up this week by Treasurer Meserve and reported to State Superintendent Jackson. The amount is \$430,695.98. It is the largest in the history of the state. The amount to each scholar is \$1.21.

The average semi-annual apportionment of school money from 1890 to 1896 was \$280,102.64. The largest apportionment during all that period was \$352,184.09, in June, 1893, nearly one hundred thousand dollars less than the apportionment for this June. The average apportionment since the new administration came in is \$390,095.83 or \$110,000 in round numbers more than the average apportionment from 1890 to 1896. The last June apportionment under republican rule was \$260,410.12 or 73 cents for each school child. The present apportionment is \$1.21 or 48 cents more for each child. In a school district of thirty scholars the increase in state apportionment alone will pay for another month's school during the year.

The promised reform in administering the school children's money has come and every district school in Nebraska from the imposing high school edifices to the little sod school house away out on the frontier is grateful for the difference.

FRUIT GROWING IN NEBRASKA.

The man who plants a fruit tree in Nebraska this spring is as much a patriot as the man who shoots a Spaniard. Making war even in so righteous a cause as freeing Cuba is after all not the chief duty of a Nebraska citizen. Planting fruit trees and hardwood forest trees for the children who are to come after us ought to be the first spring thought of every man and woman of Nebraska who is old enough to have children or think of having them.

Thirty years ago when settlement on Nebraska prairies was just pushing out from the fringe along the Missouri river the common claim of the croakers of that time was that "you couldn't ever raise fruit, the wind would blow it off the trees." Thirty years of persistent experiment has proved the falsity of their prophecies. There have been years of hard study and hard work for the practical fruit grower and nurseryman. The people who pick Nebraska apples, cherries and peaches from Nebraska trees today owe a debt that will always remain unpaid to men like Gov. Furnas, E. F. Stephens, Younger Brothers, Marshall Brothers and many whose names are not so familiar, but who have rendered equally good service in proving what things were good and true for Nebraska fruit raisers and holding them fast.

Nebraska is destined to become a great fruit region. Not only the fruit belt of eastern Nebraska that already produces hundreds of car loads for shipment, but the prairies of central Nebraska and the vast irrigated country of the western prairies are just opening up as fruit regions.

Fruit growing promises to become one of the great Nebraska industries. An experienced tree man makes the prediction that the country from the Platte valley south to the Kansas state line will in ten years be the greatest peach district of the United States. It is well known that all fruits and grains reach their highest perfection and productiveness in the highest latitude where they can be made to grow. This is true of corn, of oats, of wheat, of potatoes. It is also true of fruit. In the early years of peach growing in this state the trees did well for two or three years and then made entire failures—the trees finally in many cases winter-killing. There seems little difficulty in growing the peach tree in Nebraska. The difficult point is to keep the tree perfectly dormant during the winter, and the fruit buds from starting until the proper time in the spring.

There proves to be a great difference

in the behavior of many of the varieties of peaches under the peculiar conditions. Some varieties of peaches seem to remain more perfectly dormant during the winter than others, with the result that their buds can withstand a lower range of cold than others. For instance, where the buds of the Crawfords and other varieties of that class usually perish if the thermometer runs below 15 or 16 below zero, it is found that other varieties may ordinarily stand 20 below, and sometimes 25 degrees below zero.

Among the varieties which an experience of sixteen years demonstrated to be among the more reliable are Alexander, Early Rivers, Hale's Early, Cooledge Favorite, Wager, Hill's Chilli, Wright and Heath Cling. These varieties give better average crops, that is, more bushels in ten years by far than the Crawfords.

Many years ago it was the custom of all planters to plant the peach in the sunniest and best sheltered places they had, on the south sides of buildings, south sides of windbreaks or groves, or on sunny, sheltered hillsides, or in protected valleys. Under such conditions the peach often proved to be a failure, resulting in much disappointment to the planter, who felt that Nebraska certainly was not a safe country for the peach, and regretted much that conditions were not as favorable as in states from which they had removed. The experience of many planters has now demonstrated that what we need in Nebraska above all other things is to ripen the peach tree in the fall, and keep it dormant through the winter. If this is done, the peach may be raised with as much profit in Nebraska as in other states in the union.

Instead of planting in sunny sheltered positions, choose the blakest, open places. That is, on the tops of breezy ridges, on the north sides of windbreaks, on the north sides of houses. Under such conditions the tree ripens wood earlier and more certainly in the fall, the buds are more likely to remain dormant through the winter, and under the changed method of planting and handling the peach, we now find that we may have this choice fruit in great abundance over at least the south half of the state, and in a limited way in some favorable portions in the northern part. The trees grow very rapidly, bear quickly, usually the third or fourth year, and yield abundantly.

THE PASSING OF PIPE AND DRUM.

Under the new army regulations the old time pipe and drum corps have been relegated to the realm of all things obsolete, and the regimental brass bands and buglers will furnish the music for battle and for dress parade. Why this should be no one seems to know. To the old soldier, the veteran who has won the title on hard fought battle fields, the shrill squeal of the pipe and the rattle and roll of the drums is like an inspiration. It sets his feet to marking time and brings his boyhood days to mind again. As the strident notes of "The Girl I Left Behind Me," ring out on the still air he sees again the dusty village street, the company of boys in blue, the waving flags and handkerchiefs, the small boys pressing close about the drums and crowding back their elders. He sees the tear-drop glisten in his sweetheart's eyes like dew upon the meadow grass; he hears once more the trembling sobs of his dear old mother as her arms cling close about his neck and she whispers a broken prayer for his safe return. And then comes the roll of the drums, stronger, clearer more insistent, the hoarse command, the last good byes, and the boys are marching down the street. Those were stirring days. How the boys stepped out to the strains of the inspiring music. How its ringing notes sent them flying in the desperate charge or cheered their drooping spirits on the long forced march.

There's no music to the old soldier like the pipe and drum. No brass band or bugler's corps can stir his blood like the piercing note of the pipe and the rattle and roll of the drums. But they are gone from the army and will be heard no more upon the field of battle. The old soldiers say they would not volunteer again unless their old drum corps could go along, and they are right. That music cheered our fathers at Bunker Hill, at Yorktown and at Valley Forge; it rang out clear and strong above the rear of Jackson's guns at New Orleans; it led the boys at Monterey and Chertusco; it sounded sharp and true upon a hundred battle fields from '61 to '65, from Vicksburg to Atlanta. And now 'tis but a memory. Its plaintive music or its crashing, thrilling blare will only sound about the veteran's camp fire when the soldiers gather round to close up the thinning ranks and tell again the tales of those old days, while they watch the smouldering embers fade away as lady away the comrades one by one from out the busy walks of life.

War news is sometimes very unsatisfactory. When Sampson bombarded San Juan one dispatch stated that the forts and town were completely demolished, but later reports say that the town must have suffered although it was protected by high hills and that no traces of the bombardment could be seen on the forts except small fires, which were immediately extinguished. As this information comes direct from Sampson the correspondent with him the natural conclusion is that the bombardment was a failure.

AN OBJECT LESSON.

The work of the Englewood [Chicago] Bureau of Charities should be an object lesson to every city and town in the country. Acting upon the theory that those whose best help would help themselves and that the waste places about the city could be utilized as a garden by the poor, it has secured the use of a vacant 40 acre tract of land inside the city limits and has encouraged the neighboring poor to cultivate small plots. The experiment has been an unqualified success. The land is donated rent free and most of the garden seeds are also given. The women do a large part of the work when their husbands are employed but the men have also been interested and in their leisure hours put in the time pleasantly and profitably. Potatoes, cabbages, onions and in fact nearly all the garden vegetables are raised and many poor families have materially assisted themselves to live through the winter without aid from the charity organizations. The plan should be encouraged in Nebraska. Every city and town has its poor. Every city and town has vacant lots and blocks covered with rank weeds. The remedy for both conditions confronts us. Scores of men and boys hang about our street corners, talking politics, drinking, quarreling, loafing, through the summer. In the winter they must be cared for by others. Why not utilize the waste places, assist and encourage these people to be independent and self-supporting and at the same time beautify our cities and towns?

LIQUOR ON EXPOSITION GROUNDS.

It is a matter of profound regret that the directory of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha have themselves applied for a saloon license and propose to sell liquor on the grounds this summer for what there is to be made out of it.

There are all kinds of views on the question of liquor-selling held by the people of the state of Nebraska. There are the absolute prohibitionists who would have the sale forbidden everywhere, there are the high-license voters who believe that liquor will be sold anyway and the best way is to secure revenue from its sale and some measure of regulation to prevent in part the evils that arise from the use of liquor and there are those who would take the halter off and leave its sale as free as that of sugar or kerosene.

But when it comes to the sale of liquor on the grounds of either state or county fairs, the great majority of the people of Nebraska are practically of one opinion, that it is no place for it and they have put their opinion on record in the statutes of Nebraska (section 18, chapter 2, Art. 1, compiled statutes of 1897) as follows:

"No person shall be permitted to sell intoxicating liquors, wine or beer of any kind, or be engaged in any gambling, or other game of chance or horse racing, either inside the enclosure where any state, district, or county agricultural society fair is being held, or within forty rods thereof, during the times of holding such fair; and any person found guilty of any of the offenses herein enumerated, shall be fined in a sum not less than five nor more than fifty dollars for every such offense. * * * That upon filing proof with the State Treasurer of a violation of this section inside the enclosure of any such fair, the amount of money appropriated shall be withheld for the current year, except if paid, then it shall be withheld from any money appropriated for the ensuing year."

Now the state fair of Nebraska for the year 1898 has been given up and consolidated with the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. So have many county fairs. If there is any good reason why liquor selling should be kept off the grounds at state fairs and at county fairs on account of the disorder and drunkenness that arise, there is certainly just as good reason why it should be kept off the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. The vast majority of Nebraska people both foreign and native born, of all religions and all parties, are perfectly satisfied with the exclusion of liquor from state fair grounds. They know there is good reason for keeping it off the grounds of G. A. R. encampments and all great gatherings. And they see no good reason why the exposition should not take the same action. The Trans-Mississippi corporation was chartered by the state of Nebraska to maintain an educational and industrial show and not to go into the liquor business. It should confine itself to the purposes of its charter and leave the saloons of Omaha who have paid for the privilege the right of selling the whisky, wine and beer that are called for.

We shall be glad to receive from our readers brief letters on this question as well as other questions of public interest.

The talk of exacting a war indemnity from Spain is foolish nonsense. Spain can't pay, to start with, and if she did it would be by grinding her poor into still deeper poverty and distress. This is our war. We didn't go into it because we had to, but because we wanted to. We are able to pay for it ourselves, and we ought to do it. If a man spoils a suit of clothes helping his neighbor put out a fire on his premises he expects to get credit for a neighboring act and to pay for the clothes himself.

STATISTICS IN DEED.

At 5 o'clock this morning William Ewart Gladstone, "The Grand Old Man" of the English nation, passed away. His long life of 89 years has been filled to overflowing with work and honor.

WAR REVENUE.

By the casting vote of Senator Jones of Nevada, the \$500,000,000 bond bill to the war revenue bill was cut off in the senate finance committee room and the bill reported to the senate Monday of this week.

It is a war revenue bill. Its provisions will remind many a veteran who went to the front in 1861 of the war revenue bills of 1861 and 1862—with one notable exception—there is no provision for an income tax such as produce over \$300,000,000 of the money that put down the great rebellion. No income tax since Judge Shiras of the supreme court saw the sooth sayers and changed his mind over night. This bill then skips over the big untaxed incomes of the millionaires, but it goes after theatre tickets, bowling alleys, bank checks, chewing gum and paragonic with an unrelenting hand. It expects to raise \$151,497,066 extra revenue in the next twelve months and this is the schedule of articles which are to pay the war taxes:

Fermented liquors	\$58,906,120
Tobacco and snuff	43,840,560
Cigars and cigarettes	16,392,465
Tobacco manufacturers and dealers	807,102
Bankers	2,394,600
Exchange brokers and pawnbrokers	1,560,400
Commercial brokers	213,994
Theatres, circuses and other exhibitions	1,820,447
Bowling alleys and billiard tables	166,967
Stocks, bonds, merchandise etc.	10,000,000
Bank checks	5,000,000
Inland bills of exchange	1,500,000
Foreign bills of exchange	500,000
Express and freight, including all bills of lading	10,000,000
Life insurance	1,277,000
Mortgages	2,041,559
All other articles in schedule A, including the tax on receipts	28,000,000
Proprietary preparations and perfumeries	20,000,000
Chewing gum	1,000,000
Legacies and successions	9,275,475
Total	\$214,016,829

Add to this the revenue to be derived from articles not included in the pending bill on the basis of the receipts of 1897—\$214,046,892:

Spirits	\$82,088,542
Brewers (special tax)	160,927
Retail dealers in malt liquors	191,971
Wholesale dealers in malt liquors	278,801
Oleomargarine	1,034,029
Filled cheese	18,992
Miscellaneous receipts	375,468
Total estimated revenues	\$398,118,669

Deducting the revenues for 1897, which were \$146,619,893, the revenue provided by the senate bill is \$151,498,776.

It will be observed that these are all entirely revenue taxes, and the bill practically doubles the amount paid last year in that way to the federal government.

A good many of these taxes like those on bank checks, bills of exchange and legacies will come directly home to the people and remind them every day that they have a war on their hands and are paying for it out of their earnings. This is as it should be. No nation has the right to mortgage its children unborn to pay for the extravagance, jobbery and destruction of its wars. The workingmen of England today are paying for the wars of the Spanish succession and the idocy of George Third's attempt to conquer America.

HARDY'S COLUMN.

Constitutional Amendment—Home for the Friendless—Commissioner Irvine—Swedish Paper—Cheap or Dear Money, Which—Senate Discussion—Spain and Reform—Rear or Front—Don't Stop to Question—Why Forget Cuba?—What the War Will Do.

A constitutional amendment bill has passed the lower house of congress providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. Now we will see what the senate will do. Of course they will kill it for they know by experience that they can buy their re-election of a state legislature much cheaper than they can of the people direct. They probably will never get time to consider the bill. Let us see what objection they raise and remember how they vote.

Mrs. Slaughter, the first superintendent of the Home for the Friendless, is about to start out on a collecting mission for that institution as she did in early days. It will not be any great credit to the party in power that such a method should be necessary as long as there is a state appropriation lying in the treasury. On top of that the district court decided that the women have the law on their side.

Commissioner Irvine, second fiddle to the state supreme court, one of the men who gives unconstitutional music is like all the rest of the republican office holders, takes his little eight dollars a day, whether he works or not. Then if he does any work he wants special pay for that. He asks \$120 for talking to the state university law students. The other judges will decide he must be paid of course.

Many of our Swedish people may not know that there is a paper printed in their language in the city of Lincoln which advocates the free coinage of silver and other reform measures in the interest of the common people. The name of the paper is Tiden, or in English The Arrow, drop a card to A. E. Lindell and he will send the paper.

The republican McKinleyites denounce the Bryanites as being cheap money men. The great difference between cheap money and dear money is that one helps the poor man who is in debt and the other helps the rich man who owns untaxed bonds and mortgages. The republican are on the rich man's side every time. They will double the size and value of the gold dollar again just as soon as possible. They never will be satisfied to let the money alone.

A four weeks' discussion has commenced in the senate upon the question how to raise the revenue and not tax the rich.

Now Spain is ready to give her dependencies a reform government. It was not so with our rebellion. We gave the south the same government they had with the bone they had contended for knocked out, that was slavery. Everybody now is glad of it.

Why call him Rear Admiral Dewey? Better call him head admiral. He is ahead now and we doubt whether he ever will fall behind.

Why question taking charge of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine islands until the bona fide residents can arrange a government of their own and start a republic? Of course we must fill the office of protectorate until the new government is under way. If we thought best we could give them such a government as England give Canada. There is no hunkering for a change of government over there.

Why do not McKinley and Sampson direct all their guns toward Cuba and the Philippines, hold that territory feed the starving and wait for the Spanish fleet to show up? If they can do no more they can sail along the coast of Cuba in an iron clad and throw off a few bags of crackers to the starving women and children. Why waste any more coal or steam in trying to find the Spaniards? Why not go about the job freeing Cuba, which we started out to do?

The war with Spain will not only settle the Cuban question, but it will settle the feeling of unrest among our own people and it will also blot out the remaining sectional feeling between the north and south," said an old high tariff anti-income tax man who enjoys clipping coupons from untaxed government bonds. It may settle the first and last matter but the general feeling of unrest among the American people can not be settled in that way. There is an underlying cause of unrest and that cause must be removed before our people will ever settle down in quiet. The great doctrine of all good for all must take the place of the prevailing doctrine of today which is the greatest good for the millionaire and let the common scrub go to grass. Money rules this people in every department. Our elections are carried by money. Why did Hanna use millions in the central western states while hardly a dollar was used east of the Alleghany range? Our law makers make laws for those who will pay them the most money. In whose interest was silver stricken down and who paid John Sherman for bossing the job? In whose interest were the bonds changed from "payable in lawful money" to "payable in coin"? Why support the hand, pals of lobby workers in congress? Certainly the western farmers have no lobby workers there. Then look at the influence of money upon our courts. The Dred Scott discussion was given in the interest of the wealthy slave interest without regard to the invaluable rights doctrine of the declaration of Independence. Then the income tax decision was it made in the interest of the poor man who had little income or in the interest of the millionaire whose income in many cases amounted to millions every year. The question is should the wealthy support our general government or should the poor pay most of the taxes for that purpose? Strict justice to all classes is the only thing that will settle the unrest manifest in the American people.

The thing for the common people to fight now is the issue of bonds. A billion of bonds will stir up the unrest of the American people as it was never stirred before. There is no need for any more bonds for the millionaires to speculate on. Issue greenbacks, and coin silver is the thing to do. Our hope is in the senate alone. If the senators fail us now we may as well give the whole thing to the plutocrats and be done with it.

The Oregon is Safe. The long trip of the battleship Oregon from San Francisco to Key West, "around the Horn," is ended, and it is now with Sampson's fleet.

NEBRASKA'S CROP REPORT.

The past week has been one of continuously cloudy weather, there being only a small percentage of sunshine. The temperature for the state as a whole has averaged about the normal, being about one degree above the normal in the northern northwestern and southern sections and about one degree below the normal in the central and western sections. The maximum temperatures have averaged about 70 degrees, being generally below 70 degrees during the latter half of the week, and the minima have ranged from 38 degrees to 50 degrees. Light frosts were noted in a few sections on the 12th and 13th, but they were not severe enough to cause damage to vegetation or fruit.

The rainfall has been generally below the normal, the central and western portions having only light showers; good rains fell in the southeastern, northeastern and northern sections.

The greater portion of the week has been very favorable for farm work and the soil being in excellent condition for working, everything has been pushed rapidly. Principal attention has been given to corn planting and a very large portion of the crop has been put in during the week. The general report being that from one-half to three-fourths of the crop is planted. The week has been very favorable for the growth of small grain and grass. Wheat is reported as standing nicely, with splendid color. Rye is heading out in first class shape. Grass has made rapid growth during the week. Fruit is in good condition, with prospects encouraging for a good crop.

More's Flashlight won. Key West, Fla., May 18.—The Wilmington's crew were amazed to see More's flashlight last night for the first time since the blockade began. It was suggested that the Spaniards were exposing the Cape Verde fleet.