

Nebraska Independent

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A Chicago paper refers respectfully to Mrs. Mary Leese, of Kansas, as a self-made man.

Who is this man Grover Cleveland who has been mentioned recently as a prominent eastern democrat?

Georgia mule meat is quoted at \$4.50 per pound in Havana. That does not seem so high when it is considered how far a pound of mule meat will go.

Lincoln councilmen are beginning to quote freely from the scriptures, in their arguments, which would seem to indicate that the millennium is not far off.

New men are constantly forging to the front in politics. One David Hill from Rhode Island or Delaware, or some other eastern state, is trying to pose as democratic leader in his country.

Senator Dundas of the Auburn Granger, has inspected the new building erected at Peru for the state normal school and gives his judgement that it is an honest building and no steal.

One of the craziest ideas Senator Allen ever got in his head was that of taxing yachts for war expenses. He ought to know that all the yachts have been "tendered" to the government for us in conveying troops. Tax yachts—never! Tax tea, of course.

The war correspondents stated one day that Sampson had sunk a ship in the entrance to Santiago harbor, making it impossible. The next day they said he had sailed in and destroyed the Spanish fleet. They should get together occasionally and compare notes.

The report comes from Kentucky that an earthquake shock threw people out of their beds but no mention is made of any damage being done. It would seem that houses would fall down from such a shock. The correspondent does not state whether he had been drinking A or B grade moonshine whiskey.

Some of those eastern corporations and manufacturers who are so strenuously fighting a war tax on their goods may be taught a lesson in patriotism before they are through. The American people can get along without a lot of patent articles now on the market. Some of the French manufacturers got a taste of that medicine when American women began refusing French goods. This kind of a boycott will work just as well nearer home and our people are in about the right temper to give it force and effect.

A large number of Nebraska gentlemen are already being "favorably mentioned" for the state and congressional offices to be filled next fall. Evidently the war will not prevent them from attempting to sacrifice their personal business in order to serve the dear people. It is suspected that a few of the more hot headed have already placed themselves in the hands of their friends. Others are no doubt doing all in their power to prevent the use of their names in connection with the nomination to a good fat office.

Mules. The government has actually the power to increase the price of mules, as it has of gold and other commodities, by government demand for them. When war broke loose the ordinary government mule was pulling a plow down in Missouri and Kentucky and was worth just about \$40, and slow sale. In two months the government has bought near a million dollars worth of mules and the price has gone up from \$40 to \$100. The fat of the government brand on the mules as well as the metal raises its price in the markets of the world.

The Oxnard Beet Sugar Company of Nebraska has signified its willingness to pay a war tax on its product, and its president, Mr. Henry Oxnard, has written a personal letter to Senator Allen in which he states that as the government has materially assisted the sugar industry his company stands ready to cheerfully pay its share of the war expense. This action is in striking contrast to that of other corporations which are maintaining expensive lobbies at the national capital in an effort to evade a war tax. The Oxnard company should receive due credit for its patriotic attitude in this matter. Let us render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's.

THE OREGON ELECTION.

Monday, June 6, the state election was held in Oregon for state officers, congressmen and members of the legislature.

Dispatches indicate that the republicans have carried the state by an increased majority over that of two years ago and that the legislature is also republican. Complete returns will not be in for several days as some of the counties in the mountains are not reached by wire, but, the general result cannot be doubted.

The republicans were opposed by a fusion ticket agreed upon by the populists, democrats and free silver republicans conventions in March. There was some dissatisfaction over fusion and factions of both the populist and democratic parties bolted and put up "straight" tickets. The returns so far do not indicate how large a vote these factions polled.

Two years ago the populists of Oregon put up one of the most magnificent political fights in history at the June election. Both the republican and democratic parties were distracted upon the currency question. In the first congressional district Ellis the republican nominee avowed himself for free silver. As a result the gold standard republicans bolted and nominated a candidate who received 8,807 votes to Ellis 13,617, Quinn (populist) 12,239 and Bennett (democrat) 7,099. The actual result of the election was not known for ten days until the last mountain precincts reported. Although the populists were defeated the moral effect was that of a victory and opened the campaign of 1896 like a thunder clap for the associated monopolies and corporations of America. In the November election McKinley carried the state by 2,117 in a total vote of 100,000.

The result of the election this week is a distinct victory for the gold standard, bonds and corporations. There is no use trying to evade or excuse the conclusion. The Oregon republican state platform declared distinctly for the gold standard without any international bimetallic nonsense. Last week the republican congress voted down the tax on corporations and voted up three hundred millions of bonds. And the people of Oregon voted for that sort of thing with their eyes open.

For those who don't favor that sort of thing there is one valuable lesson in the Oregon election returns—the need of uniting in one political party all Americans opposed to this un-American policy.

The soldiers and sailors roster of the state of Nebraska is just out from the office of the secretary of state. The law requires the volume to be published every two years giving a list of the soldiers and sailors in the state of Nebraska as furnished by the county clerks of the respective counties. There are about 14,000 of them living in this state. The book this year is a volume of 438 pages. It was printed at the contract price of \$2.09 per page, making the total cost \$915.42. Two years ago the same book was padded out to 574 pages and cost \$3.05 per page. This with some extras made the total cost \$1768.70. The difference between the cost of the book two years ago and the cost now is \$853.28. If the present law had been in force when the contract was let the state would have saved about \$200 more. Under the old printing law all the work of this kind was let in one contract. Under the present law the lowest bidder on each separate job gets the contract for that job.

Our friend, George Abbott, of Falls City, writes a private note asking what this paper thinks of the possibility of a bond issue and intimating that he "done told you so first." Mr. Abbott deprecates the fact that "such scoundrels as Thurston, Wolcott and Kyle have been given a chance to go back home and tell their silver constituents that they thought they were voting for silver when they voted for "coin bonds." The INDEPENDENT does not think many people will be deceived. The senators who voted for bonds are the same ones who voted against taxing corporations for war expenses. It would doubtless be a good plan to force a vote on the question of making the bonds payable half in silver and half in gold. But the real question pending in congress the past two weeks has been whether corporate wealth in the United States shall pay its share of war expenses, or whether there was enough patriotism in congress to compel our corporate wealth to pay proper war taxes. The question has been decided in the negative. If the people of America are worthy the freedom their forefathers died to obtain they will meet the question raised as it deserves to be met.

One of our exchanges states that a petition asking congress to issue full legal-tender greenbacks to pay the expenses of the Spanish war instead of issuing bonds was circulated and signed not only by populists but by scores of democrats and republicans. It wonders why they don't vote for what they want, instead of merely petitioning for it. But after all that is no wonder. The majority of the people want the right thing all the time. The vast majority of the voters of the United States this very day would vote to issue \$300,

000,000 of non-interest bearing greenbacks instead of \$300,000,000 of interest-bearing bonds which their representatives voted for last week. Why don't they vote for it then? Because the essence of human existence is association. No man moves by himself. He moves with his fellow-men. The sum of political scheming is to get men into politics and then capture the party organization. That's what has just been done at Washington. The great republican party, the parent of legal-tender paper money, repudiates its own child for the great republican party, the parent of the legal-tender paper money, repudiates its own child for the gold-bond program of Grover Cleveland.

THE SPANISH FLEET.

The Spanish fleet seems to be an unknown quantity. One day the war correspondents gravely inform us that the Spanish admiral and his entire squadron is securely blockaded in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba and that troops are to be landed at once and the city and fleet bombarded from land and sea. Next day doubts are expressed as to the main part of the fleet being in the harbor and it is hinted that it may be a thousand miles away and it would be dangerous to start transports from Tampa and risk the loss of thousands of soldiers. The Spanish reserve fleet supposed to be at Cadiz is also shrouded in mystery. Its whereabouts, its strength and its probable destination are unknown. The board of strategy at Washington on sooner makes an order than it is countermanded on the strength of some sensational story sent in by an imaginative newspaper correspondent.

A few soldiers have been sent to Dewey's relief at Manila but a large army is still camped at San Francisco with no immediate prospect of moving. General Merritt who is to command the expedition calls for additional men each week and gets them.

The invasion of Cuba may occur tomorrow or next winter or not at all. Everything is uncertain except that \$500,000,000 bonds will be issued and that the war is costing something above \$1,000,000 per day, and the end is not yet. The invasion of Porto Rico is talked of one day and on the next is indefinitely postponed.

One thing seems clear, and that is that the Spaniards are not yet whipped at any one point, not even at Manila, and another thing that seems equally clear is that they are beating us in strategy and secrecy. No man can tell what a day may bring forth.

VISIT THE EXPOSITION.

It is to be earnestly hoped that the people of Nebraska will take an active interest in the great Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha and patronize it liberally. Perhaps we do not all agree with some features of the management, but that is no reason for denying ourselves the pleasure and instruction to be derived from the big show. A great many people object to the sale of beer and wine upon the grounds and some may not attend on account of it, but if we go through life refusing the good simply because it is sometimes mixed with evil or situated near to that which is bad, this world would be a sad failure and the chances are that the bad would finally triumph. The better way is to assort the good from the bad and choose the good. Those who do not care to drink can easily avoid temptation at the exposition. Anyone who visited the World's Fair at Chicago will testify that while liquor was sold on the grounds yet the crowds were the most orderly, courteous and well behaved ever seen at such an exhibition. If there was any drunkenness it was not obtrusive or noisy and in fact was not in evidence at all to those who were looking for something more instructive and entertaining.

The exposition at Omaha will hardly compare with a world's fair, but it will be by all odds the greatest exhibition ever seen in the west and the lessons it will teach will last a life time. A visit to Omaha this summer will repay an hundred fold. It will be equal to months of travel at home and in foreign lands and those who miss it either from indifference or prejudice will throw away one of life's grand opportunities; an opportunity to broaden the mind, to cultivate or gratify a taste for the beautiful, to acquire useful and interesting information, to touch elbows with people from other lands than ours. It should be a duty as it will be a pleasure to visit the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

Senator Thurston did not vote with his part on either the bond proposition or the exemption of corporations from war taxes. He did vote to coin the seigniorage. Whatever may be his motives in those matters he is entitled to grateful consideration from every citizen of Nebraska for his action. None ought to be quicker to recognize it than the populist press and people. When Senator Thurston returned from the coast of Cuba with his wife's body and his plea for suffering Cubans none were quicker to sympathize with his sorrow and respond to his sentiment than those who have fought him in politics. And now when the chairman of the last republican national convention refuses to follow his party's program in an unpatriotic and un-American course he is entitled to honest praise from every lover of his country.

EXPRESS COMPANY EXPOSURES.

The rascality that has surrounded the work of corporations in Nebraska gradually comes to light. Last January a change was made in the management of the Pacific Express Company at Omaha. Following this came the dismissal of W. F. Bechel, auditor of the company, and J. K. Sudborough, chief clerk. Soon after Sudborough and Bechel were arrested and charged with misappropriating the company's funds. Their preliminary examination now being conducted at Omaha has lifted the lid covering the work of this corporation and other corporations in the politics of Nebraska and discloses a loud smelling mess.

So far the testimony discloses a shortage of between \$40,000 and \$50,000, most of which it is alleged went into "politics." It was the custom for Bechel, as auditor of the company, to draw a warrant for \$5,000 or \$10,000, which was put into a special fund and checked against as occasion required. Here is a sample of the testimony of the book keeper (Mr. Nason) on being examined as to where these funds went:

"Do you know of any money being paid into the company for use in securing or opposing certain legislation?" Connell asked.

"I do not know of any being paid in. There was some work done at Lincoln in one legislature that I know of."

"Was that generally known to the officers and employes of the company?"

"Yes sir."

"Can you give the approximate amount of money used?"

"I don't know."

"Well, what is your best judgement?"

"I guess \$10,000."

Nason finally answered that in his best judgement the company, in the years prior to 1893, as far back as he could remember had used about \$10,000 at each session of the legislature for political purposes.

"Do you know who authorized the expenditure of this for political purposes?"

"I always understood that it was Mr. E. M. Morsman."

The answer was ruled out because it was simply "understanding." Nason added that the head officers knew of and authorized the expenditures. When he was asked to name them he could only remember Mr. Morsman's name.

"Do you know where the money came from which was used for political expenses?"

"I think part of it was prorated among other companies."

"What companies?"

Well, the United States Express company."

The court interrupted. "What has this examination got to do with the charge against Mr. Bechel?"

It should be borne in mind that both Bechel and Sudborough are prominent republican politicians and have in large measure controlled Nebraska politics for the past fifteen years. Bechel has been for years a member of the Omaha city council and Sudborough was a republican nominee for state senator in Douglas county two years ago.

Members of the last Nebraska legislature will not need to be told who Sudborough is. At a very early stage of legislative proceedings he made his presence known to them in a very agreeable way. The state warrants received by members as pay for their services were at a discount of from five to ten per cent on the market—a result of "preserving of the credit of the state" by electing republican officials. But Mr. Sudborough caused the news to be gently conveyed to the ears of active members of both senate and house that the Pacific Express company had a sum of money to invest and was willing to pay par for state warrants issued for members services—none others need apply. A good many members rejoiced at the good tidings and visited Mr. Sudborough's suite of rooms at the Lincoln hotel where they not only received par for their warrants, but were astonished at the liberality and magnificence displayed there. There were three or four rooms in the suite and in each of them bottles of the choicest liquors and brands of the finest cigars free for all who would have them. Card tables for those who desired and a pressing invitation to "call again" were part of the regular program.

In spite of all this whiskey, good fellowship and cashing of warrants the legislature passed the bill giving the state board of transportation power to fix express charges in this state.

Sudborough for the express company and Bill Paxton for the stock yards company went home on the swearing train.

It is believed this is only the beginning of disclosures regarding the corporation lobby and their work in Nebraska.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

After a heated conflict in the legislature a year ago last winter the bill for the initiative and referendum drafted by Representative Yeiser, of Omaha, was passed against the bitter opposition of the republican members and inflammatory speeches by the republican leaders.

There didn't appear at that time any good reason for this intense party opposition. Lapse of time has not produced any. Perhaps the best explanation given is that of one of the republican members who, being pressed for a reason of his opposition to so fair a proposition as letting the people vote on legislation, said that it was a "d—d pop idea."

The bill as it finally passed provided that the new law should be submitted for approval or rejection to the vote of each city, town or school district. It also made mandatory upon the municipal authorities to submit the same

when petitioned for by 15 per cent of the voters.

This last is what Mr. Yeiser has been trying to get the city authorities of Omaha to obey for several months. The same opposition that marked the progress of the bill through the legislature is present in the city hall of Omaha. At last Yeiser has gone before Judge C. R. Scott with a petition for mandamus to compel the authorities of Omaha to do their duty. THE INDEPENDENT expects to see an early and righteous decision from Judge Scott in this case and the question submitted.

Who is afraid of the people?

DID IT PAY?

The able agricultural editor (?) of the State Journal comments as follows on cattle feeding in the state of Nebraska during the past winter:

"The banks have had a considerable part of their surplus money out on 'cattle paper' during the winter. As settlement time ensues they find that the venture has generally been profitable. The feeders have made money and the cash returns to the banks without delay, accompanied by a nice increment in the way of interest. The farmers of the west who want to engage in the feeding business will experience no difficulty in the future in securing all of the capital they need. Their only danger lies in over confidence and the ease with which money may be borrowed. Men who decline to grow excited, but continue on conservative lines, will find cattle feeding the most profitable of all forms of disposing of the surplus products of their farms."

Of course a man who writes editorials for the railroad organ knows all about cattle feeding in Nebraska or any other state. It is a notorious fact that neither the writer nor the paper has any use for the farmers and never comes in contact with any of them except such farmers as Tom Majors who goes out in the sun and gets tanned just before the state convention meets. The Journal man says that the banks have done well on the cattle feeding business and he is doubtless correct. The banks and the commission men sell the cattle or loan the money to the farmer and take a mortgage drawing 10 per cent for their security. The cattle may eat up the crop of corn and then sell for less per pound than they cost and the feeder may lose his farm trying to pay up but the bank is all right and has ample security. THE INDEPENDENT knows several farmers down in Gage county who have lost their farms in paying for cattle feeding experience and a number of others fed last year's corn crop and didn't have a cent left to show for it when the cattle went to market. And judging from the prices paid for feeders last fall there are hundreds of farmers in this state who had the same experience. The sheep men are in the same boat. They paid too much last fall and they find now that their last year's crop and their winter's work went for nothing. The more unfortunate ones piled up a debt which will not be paid for several years, if it does not take their homes. But the banks made money and therefore prosperity has struck Nebraska, and of course our farmers must be making money hand over fist. This same Journal man said, a few days ago, that the Nebraska farmers were piling up money so fast, and hoarding it about their homes in such quantities, that unless they could be persuaded to again have confidence in the banks, all the footpads and robbers of the east would come to Nebraska and get rich "going through" farm houses and "holding up" farmers. Let's hear from a few of our subscribers on these topics. If there has been so much profit in feeding cattle and sheep in Nebraska let's advertise it a little. If the farm houses of this state are so full of money let's know it, and perhaps we can get a few postal savings banks established out here.

Some things have steadily advanced in price since our early recollection while the price of other things has stood still or declined. Doctors and lawyers fees are four times what they were fifty years ago. Funeral expenses are several times higher. Anything less than a two hundred dollar funeral is only fit for a pauper. Doctors, lawyers and undertakers are all in a combine of their own which amounts to about the same as a trust. Rather than shock the pride of those who are not able to pay the bills of a first-class funeral a fine coffin is rented for the funeral but the dead are put to rest in a cheap one. It, however, is a horrid thing for mechanics and laboring men to unite in a labor organization to keep up the price of labor.

Modesty is modesty, whether applied to statury, pictures or the living form. Art is art but never vulgar nor obscene. The salvation women who backed the nude statury on exhibition at Omaha, deserve the thanks of refined society. Adam and Eve were ashamed of their own nude condition. There would be no objections to exhibiting such statury in the Philippine or Fiji islands where all the people go naked.

We have great public wrongs. They can and should be righted. It is fair to suppose that a reform party would right at least, a few wrongs, but somehow the reformers need reforming almost as much as anybody. The oil inspection system in this state is a wrong and a fraud. It taxes the consumer of oil without rendering him an equivalent. It has been a source of political corruption and no good whatever comes from it. Oil is adulterated with water and is made no more explosive. Inspected oil froze solid last winter when the temperature was only a little below zero. The oil ring now is at work to control coming nominations and if allowed to succeed look out for breakers. The oil ring is and always has been one of the blackest spots of political corruption in the state. The entire law should be repealed and a new one passed, fixing a heavy penalty upon the sale of unsafe oil. Then the consumer would be his own tester. The method of testing is very simple. The law was first passed more to make soft places for a lot of republican office-seekers than for anything else. They told us that it was a tax on the standard oil company but in turn the oil company taxed the consumer. It is a small tax, it is true, but it amounts to many thousands of dollars in a year and it is mostly paid by farmers and poor people. The rich have electric or gas light. Small or great it is too big for a corruption fund. We say again that no man holding an office of any kind, should be nominated for governor this fall and it should be understood that no appointee by Governor Holcomb who has held his office for two terms should be reappointed. We must change office holders in our own party or the people will surely change parties. Party lines are not as strong as after the war, the bloody shirt has lost its charm, honest reform is demanded all along the line.

HARDY'S COLUMN.

- Silver and Wheat—Traveling Fee—A Balloon for Sampson—No Strategy Board—Government Telegraphs—Farmers Lookout—Bryan the Gladstone of America—Get Together—Grass Beef—Good Things in Canada—Advance in Prices—Modesty and Art—Public Wrongs and How to Right Them.

Silver is going up and wheat is going down. Two or three more jumps and they will be together again. Cotton and silver have stayed together.

Anna the Philippine islands and the tailage of an ordinary congressman would be ten thousand dollars. The usual route of travel would probably be around the Horn.

If Sampson had a balloon, he could send a man up a few hundred feet with a glass and count the Spanish fleet in Santiago harbor then we would know what was in the bottle. The hills are not very high between Santiago and our feet.

We have no use for a board of strategy in the city of Washington. Justice to Sampson as the president did to Dewey. "Ho For 'em." We want this cruel war to begin before long or else stop talking. Is it the policy of the money power to delay until the bonds are issued?

Government telegraph we are going to have, connecting Cuba and Porto Rico with the United States and also another connecting the Philippines. How won-

derful! Can we live under it? What will become of the Western Union?

Farmers look out. If the government issues gold bonds to carry on the war, prices of all kinds of food and property will go down; on the other hand if they coin silver and issue greenbacks every-thing will go up in price.

William J. Bryan is bound to be the Gladstone of America. Gladstone's greatness consisted in standing up for and with common people and who more than Bryan stands up for and with the common people of America. The bankers, money lenders and corporations do not mourn for Gladstone, neither will they for Bryan.

The different reform parties got together in Ohio, put up one ticket and are all at work. The silver democrats, silver republicans, populists and socialists all wore the same badge with the same motto "get together." Their platform consisted of one plank known as the initiative and referendum. That is what must be done in Nebraska. We must get together and then amend the constitution so that the people can have a shuck at every law through the ballot box.

Grass beef begins to move toward the market. Corn fed beef and mutton are well out of the feeders hands. The time of settlement and striking a balance is at hand. Losses face the feeder in many instances. As a rule there was not half the money made this year as there was last.

There are several good things to be learned of the Canadians. There, no will is good unless it is made, acknowledged and recorded the same as a deed. The judge who takes the acknowledgment, judges of the competency of the testator. A will, as recorded, stands the same as a deed and is executed. The grant will lay suits are all shut off. Then they have an inheritance tax over there and a postal savings system. Rich men do not rule as they do on this side.

Some things have steadily advanced in price since our early recollection while the price of other things has stood still or declined. Doctors and lawyers fees are four times what they were fifty years ago. Funeral expenses are several times higher. Anything less than a two hundred dollar funeral is only fit for a pauper. Doctors, lawyers and undertakers are all in a combine of their own which amounts to about the same as a trust. Rather than shock the pride of those who are not able to pay the bills of a first-class funeral a fine coffin is rented for the funeral but the dead are put to rest in a cheap one. It, however, is a horrid thing for mechanics and laboring men to unite in a labor organization to keep up the price of labor.

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Salt Rheum

Intense Suffering—Could Not Sleep—Cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"I had salt rheum on my arms, which itched intensely and kept me from sleeping. The skin on my hands would crack open. My friends believed I was suffering from blood poisoning. I decided to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. I did not see any improvement with the first bottle but continued with the medicine and after taking five bottles I was completely cured. My hands are now as smooth as I could wish." A. D. HARRY, Kirby, Pa.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. \$1.00 per bottle.

Hood's Pills are prompt, efficient and easy to check. In vials.