

A gentleman who writes that he is much interested in the article on credit money which appeared in last week's INDEPENDENT, asks for some further illustration of how credit money is created. Perhaps one of the best is the story told by Tom Johnson in the house of representatives in 1894. He said (let it be understood that he is a great iron and steel manufacturer) that in the panic of '93, when the banks refused to furnish any credit at all and when his customers could not pay their bills, he found his firm must close its works for want of money, or in some way manufacture something to take its place. So he called his workmen together and proposed to issue them notes of the company in place of money. They accepted the proposition. The notes were taken by the merchants in payment of goods, and the business went on. Now these notes did the money work and were the money thing. It was pure credit money.

HARDY'S COLUMN.

United States Senator—32 to 1—Would be Opposed—Change of Heart—Pence.

It looks more and more as though Thompson would be our next senator. He wants to try buying congress and getting the contract for lighting the streets of Washington as he has done Lincoln. The average cost of electing a senator is \$100,000 and Thompson can come up to that with a little of Hanna's help.

The money sharks would oppose the free coinage of silver 32 to 1 just as they do now 16 to 1, because that would increase primary money so that gold would not advance in purchasing power as it does now. Our population doubles twice while our gold money is doubling once. Twenty-five years from today our population will be double what it is now and gold will have increased only half. In 1950 we ought to have four times the primary money we have now, but we won't have only double in gold. So gold must go up, or rather property and labor must go down still lower. Money sharks want an advancing dollar. That is the reason they are willing to loan money at three per cent for they know they can buy more property with it in ten years than now.

If there is any one thing that looks bad and dishonest in politics it is pretending to be one thing before election and then after election. John Thurston in his speech before the legislature four years ago stated that he was in favor of free coinage 16 to 1 of all the American product of silver. He also stated that he rather see gold go to a premium than prosperity to a discount. Only two years later he was one of the strongest republican gold bugs who took the stump for McKinley. Every doctrine held by the republican party, while we were members is dear to us as ever. Further than that all imports should be taxed the same, according to value. For the first twenty years the republican party had nothing more to do with the gold standard than it did with the man in the moon. It was the common man's party then but today it is the rich man's party. Millionaires know it, trusts and corporations know it. Silver was kicked out for the sole purpose of increasing the purchasing power of the dollar. It is true, times are a little better, that is, by the most rigid economy farmers are buying a little more, those who have not lost their farms by mortgage sale. But farmers and mechanics have to live on short rations yet. Prices are still going down or rather gold is still going up. Furniture and carpets can be bought for less money today than ever before and the same can be said of most other merchandise. Where protection and trusts are in partnership as on window glass it is the other way. It is getting to be near time, if it be true, that Bryan and silver are dead and buried, that the money sharks will demand an enlargement of the gold dollar. Then nothing will be sound only the big dollar. The present gold dollar will be the fifty cent dollar. Every gold bug republican will vote for it.

Before this column reaches the reader the treaty of Paris between the United States and Spain, will undoubtedly have been signed. Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine islands will be given over to us, for the payment of \$20,000,000. It is not for the purpose of governing those islands ourselves, but that Spain shall withdraw her army and let them govern themselves. In one year every American soldier should be withdrawn, unless it be a few war ships to keep other nations off.

STOP FREE PASSES

The Poor Man Must Pay not Only His Own Fare but the Fare of the Rich Man.

It wears out cars, it wears out rails, it wears out coal, yes, and it wears out noble human beings, to haul a great number of favorites free of charge. And who pays for all this wear and labor. There is no escaping, some one must pay for it all; and no one will deny, that the poor and the people without influence, who are never treated to favors, must not only pay what their transportation is worth, but they must always pay more than is right, to make up for the losses on the free pass crowd. What man in this state, with a free pass in his pocket, or his conscience so calloused that he could take one if he could get it, will raise his hand and say, he is proud because people draw lower salaries, have smaller incomes, and live humbler every way, must pay for his railroad rides. There is only one side to this controversy. Favors should not be granted by public corporations to any one, least of all to the stronger members of the community. To satisfy myself about the rules along this line, I have, several times, tried to get passes for worthy poor, and for the sick and penniless, who should have the attendance of special-

ists in large cities. Free passes for such people were always refused, but I was politely told that anything myself or family wanted, would be given cheerfully. Here is a direct reversal of the right. The poor can't get passes, and folks able to pay never should have them. Railroads are built with the right of eminent domain, a sovereign, kingly right, and by taxes and burdens levied on the entire community. Favors granted by them to individuals, cannot be defended successfully. In his first message to the legislature, Governor Holcomb referred to a recent constitutional amendment adopted by the people of New York, prohibiting the issuance to, or acceptance by, the different elective officials in that state, of free passes to travel on railroads. See Inaugural Address, 1895, page 56. He urged similar legislation for Nebraska and closed with the following words:

"I am of the opinion that the very general issuance of passes to individuals is pernicious in its influence, has a tendency to debase the public mind, and should be opposed to the same extent, as the possession of free transportation by those of official life. In either instance there must naturally follow a corresponding reduction in the net earnings of the railroads, and an incidental increase in the cost of transportation, to the individual citizen not so favored. I can see no difference in principle, in discrimination in passenger traffic, than in freight traffic. The system is wrong in principle, and I respectfully recommend to your careful consideration, the propriety of enacting a law, to prevent the issuance of free transportation, and its acceptance by officials, or persons in private life, save the bona fide employees of the railroad companies."

But the legislature of 1895 paid no heed to this good advice. Likely they rode on passes themselves. One thing is sure they appropriated five cents a mile to pay their traveling expenses, when they could only pay three cents per mile traveled, and they did not appropriate money to pay traveling expenses of the state officers. It behooves the 1899 legislature to be a little more consistent than its predecessors. If the general public know how much their busy state officers are pestered by politicians and friends who want assistance in getting passes, they would rise up and stop the imposition. Officials waste much precious time in closets, and with correspondence, trying to get things of value for nothing, and giving them to hangers on, who ought by all means to pay for anything they receive. Requests come so thick for passes, that often the most influential men are refused. It is humiliating for state officials to be turned down in this way by a railroad lawyer or manager, and I express the belief, they would all gladly favor a law, stopping the nuisance, and tying up their hands, so they could tell friends it is unlawful for them to assist in getting passes. Then too, officials would be relieved of suspicion. We have among us a shrewd, well paid class of men, whose sole business is, to see that the laws asked for by the people are not passed, and if any are passed, they must see that they are not enforced, but rather that the courts enjoin them. These same unscrupulous schemers are the leading free pass dispensers. No honorable official enjoys being secretly closeted with such enemies of mankind, but under the present arrangement it cannot always be avoided. Abolishing free passes would shear this gentry of much of their officiousness and usefulness, and prove a great relief to many honorable men. Let me see; did not the last populist and silver republican conventions adopt resolutions against free passes. I wonder if officials from these two parties will keep hands off this winter, and work in good faith for a law, forever prohibiting this unjust favoritism. The people have sworn vengeance on parties that do not live up to their platform professions.

SAMUEL LICHTY.

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

A Writer Who Does not Like the Independent's Definition of that Cult.

Editor Independent:

I am much interested in your editorial entitled "Socialism", which appeared in the Independent last week. Undoubtedly every true populist will agree with you that as populists and American citizens we should stand firmly by those grand principles enunciated in our national platform, and that we should not be led away from these principles and take up the theories advanced by visionary persons. Yet I cannot agree with you that "the members of the party are not socialists."

The Frenchman who declared that "language was not given man to conceal his thoughts", or words to that effect, evidently foresaw the English language as it appears in our modern newspapers. In an earnest but most unwise endeavor to simplify matters, most newspapers seem to have adopted the rule of Editor Jones over in Iowa, whose one rule for the guidance of his compositor was, "Capitalize nothing but Jesus Christ and John Jones." Instead of simplifying matters, this under capitalization has resulted in rendering the meaning of many words obscure. I grant you that Populists are not and probably never will be Socialists; that is to say; the members of the Populist (or People's) party will probably never affiliate with the Socialist party; yet all Populists undoubtedly are not only socialists but also republicans and democrats.

A republican (with a small r) is "one who favors or prefers the government of a republic"; but a Republican (with a capital R) is one who is a member of a political party which has chosen the name "Republican" as its official designation. Populists favor the government of a republic; they are most ardent republicans, for they are intensely loyal to a republican form of government. But they are not Republicans, thank God.

A democrat is "a friend to government by the people"; he believes in a "form of government in which the supreme power is exercised by the people." Populists are friends to government by the people; they firmly

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believe that the people should rule; they are democrats. But they are not Democrats.

A socialist believes in a system of civil policy that aims to secure a reconstruction of society, increase of wealth and a more equal distribution of the products of labor through the public collective ownership of land and capital (as distinguished from property) and the public collective management of all industries. Populists do not go all the way with socialists, but so far as they believe in the public collective ownership of certain industries, it seems to me just so far they are socialists. But of course Populists are not Socialists.

Andrew Carnegie is a Republican, yet I doubt if he "prefers the government of a republic"; I doubt his republicanism but not his Republicanism. Most Republicans are republicans, but not all of them are; many of the leaders are not. Grover Cleveland is a democrat—so is J. Sterling Morton; yet the former would doubtless prefer an autocratic government (with himself the autocrat) and the latter is a dyed-in-the-wool aristocrat. Both are Democrats and neither are democrats, paradoxical as it may sound.

Looking alone at democracy, "a government by the people", we may find shades of beliefs as to the system of civil polity to be adopted. On one wing is individualism, on the other, collectivism; and between the two a blending of the two main ideas. Individualism is defined as "the theory of social and economic liberty of the individual; also theoretic anarchy. Opposed to socialism." Collectivism, or socialism, is "the doctrine that the people as a whole should own or control the material and means of production. Opposed to individualism." Individualism run mad is plain, everyday anarchy; collectivism run mad is communism or the most extreme socialism. Both are to be avoided—and the People's party adopts the golden mean between the two extremes for its principles; it is once individualistic and collectivistic, although the principal tenets of populism lean toward collectivism.

Public schools are most surely socialistic institutions. The old "pay" schools of the South are examples of individualism. Public ownership of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, etc., can hardly be said to be individualism; yet you say populism is "the opposite of socialism." Perhaps the Socialist party would operate public railroads on a different plan from what the Populist party proposes, but that is a matter of detail, not principle. The fundamental is public ownership—collectivism or socialism as applied to railroads in contradistinction to individualism.

The People's party would apply socialism to natural monopolies, but it would allow the person employed to enjoy individualism in their private affairs. I cannot agree that "populism is the only force in this country that is in everything antagonistic to socialism." There is nothing, except anarchy, that is antagonistic in everything to socialism—and Populists are not anarchists, Republican newspapers and orators to the contrary notwithstanding. But I agree that the Populist party has gone far enough toward the socialistic side in demanding public ownership of public utilities, postal savings banks, etc. The platform has plenty of socialism, but not too much. It was wisely avoided the weakness of attempting to curtail the "social and economic liberty of the individual" in purely private matters. There is much difference between a government railway and a government candy store, but the Socialists cannot see it.

There is only one word that aptly designates that happy medium between anarchy and communism, between extreme individualism and extreme collectivism or socialism, which the People's party demands; that word is populism. Let us adopt it.

AMOS S. BACK.

(The conclusion that the above writer arrives at is all right. Let us call this system where a franchise is operated in a city under public ownership, "populism." But it is certainly not socialism unless all the standard writers of socialistic cult are mistaken about what socialism is. They advocate the common ownership of everything. They say that if wearing apparel is exempted, it would be the entering wedge that would destroy the whole system. Between a man working for a city and receiving a salary with which he is free to do as he pleases and the common ownership of everything and nothing with which he could do as he pleased there is too great a diversity to be called by the same name.—Ed.)

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