

The Nebraska Independent

Wealth Makers and Lincoln Independent Consolidated.

VOL. X.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1898.

NO. 30.

WHO WILL IT BENEFIT

Imperialism Will Only Make the Rich, Richer and Increase Burdens of the Poor.

CAPITALISTS ONLY WANTED

Farmers and Wage Workers Ask Questions of the Independent and Wants Answers.

No Poor Need Apply.

Several letters have been received asking that the INDEPENDENT make some statement regarding what is meant by "imperialism." One old farmer in the northern part of the state asks the writer to point out what benefit it will be to him and his neighbor to annex the Philippines and other islands of the sea. The latter request is made in the right spirit and investigations made on that line are the only investigations that will result in any good to anybody. If it is of benefit to this farmer and his neighbors that we go into the annexing business, it will be of benefit to all other farmers and neighbors engaged in agriculture. A working man in Omaha asks what is labor to get out of annexation. Happily the INDEPENDENT is able to satisfactorily answer these questions by printing the statement of Robert W. Shingle, who was Hawaii's commissioner to the Omaha exposition.

The Hawaiian islands, he says in substance, are no place for a poor man to go. What is needed there is men with some capital and experience. Raw labor, such as only the poor man has to offer, is abundant and cheap. Mr. Shingle pointed out that many persons had gone to Honolulu since annexation with entirely false notions, thinking it to be a place where it would be easy to earn a livelihood. They soon became a charge and had to be sent home. This class, Mr. Shingle declares, is not wanted in Honolulu. What is needed is men with capital and managerial ability to develop resources with the aid of labor already on the field.

What is true of the Hawaiian islands in this respect is true of all the other newly acquired possessions of the nation. There are no place for the poor man, with only his labor to offer. Previous territorial acquisitions of the United States have been veritable El Dorados for the poor man, not only of the more thickly settled portions of this country but of Europe as well. Such acquisitions have been of sparsely settled territory, rich in natural resources, needing principally labor for their development. They offered encouraging fields for the surplus laboring population of the older portions of the country. That surplus laboring population of the present generation cannot look to the new territorial acquisitions, as they did to the old, as a means of alleviating their condition. It is only capital and the higher grades of labor that will be welcome immigrants in the new possessions.

That being the case, it follows that the annexation of the Philippines and other islands will bring no benefit to anybody except the capitalists. The whole scheme is intended to make the rich, richer and increase the already too heavy burdens of the poor. If there is a reader of the INDEPENDENT who can point to one benefit that will come to the farmer or the wage worker from the adoption of this scheme of imperialism, he is asked to do it. In asking for this correspondence, we bar the "manifest destiny" and "divine purpose" postulates. We will not accept the statement of any man that it has been revealed to him what the "divine purpose" is, unless he brings a certificate signed by the Creator that that knowledge has been imparted to him.

A HEART OF SYMPATHY

Dewey Writes a Letter to a Soldier's Widow to Comfort Her in Sorrow.

Breensburg, Pa., December 2.—The following is a letter received from Admiral Dewey by Mrs. Noss of Mount Pleasant, whose husband, Jesse Noss, was killed in the battle of Malata, July 3:

OLYMPIA FLAGSHIP, Manila, October 23, 1898.—My Dear Mrs. Noss: I wish to express to you my deepest sympathy. It must lessen your sorrow to learn that your young husband fell fighting bravely for his country, the noblest death a man can know. From the Olympia I watched the fight that fearful night and wondered how many American homes would be saddened by the martyrdom suffered by our brave men, and my sympathy went out to each and every one of them.

Your loss has been sadder than the others, and I am unable to express the sorrow I feel for you. Tears came to my eyes as I read the sad story of the father who never saw his child and the loss of all that was left to the brave mother. It is hard sometimes to believe, but our Heavenly Father, in His infinite goodness, always does things for the best, and some day father, mother and daughter will be joined never again to be parted. With the

tenderest sympathy, believe me your sincere friend.

GEORGE DEWEY.

(If McKinley keeps on with his present imperialistic policy, there will be thousands more of such cases all over the land. Many widows will mourn for husbands, and many mothers for sons that will never return. What will we get for it all? Military glory! But McKinley knows what the "divine purpose" and our "manifest destiny" is and we will all have to submit. He seems to have imparted that knowledge also to John L. Webster, so Nebraskans have no right to complain.—Ed. Ind.)

IS FREE SILVER DEAD?

The Experience of a New York Drummer Down in the Back Woods of Georgia.

The New York drummer, born with a gold spoon in his mouth, of course, was talking to half dozen listening drummers, says the Washington Star. "A man in our business," he was saying, "is, as you all know liable to see and hear strange things, and all of us have had our share. There's your humble servant, for instance. Four weeks ago I was down in Georgia in a country where every prospect's silver and only gold is vile, and the man I was selling a big bill of goods to was the six-to-oneest old chap you ever saw. Indeed, he was so affected, infected and inflicted with it that he even talked silver in his sleep, and gave away the best coon dog he ever owned because it was yellow and he hated the color so. But to the story. The day I spent with him there was a funeral at the meeting house near the store, the chief actor in it being one of the prominent citizens of the county. My friend asked me to go with him, as there would be interesting exercises in the shape of brief funeral addresses setting forth the deceased's virtues by other prominent citizens who had been his friends. As he was to be one, of course, I promptly accepted the invitation, and we were there on time. Everything went off beautifully, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house, until my friend arose to offer his remarks. There wasn't a person in the congregation more deeply moved than he was, and as he was quite a capable man I fixed myself to hear the best speech of the occasion.

"He arose slowly and looked over the people gathered about him with weeping eyes.

"Dear friends and fellow travelers to that bourne whence none returns," he said with a sniffle, "inasmuch as Brother Jackman has just spoken of our late lamented friend and fellow-citizen as now upon the streets of the golden city, I think it is only fitting for me to say that the crime of '73—

"What else he might have said nobody knows, but at the same time an impulse moved the man on the other side of him and the man at his back to simultaneously grab for him, and by some means they got him head first the other way, and his remarks were fully as appropriate as any other."

RECEIVED SALARY.

In Judge Holmes' court last Thursday evening the question of allowing bill of \$6,500 to J. E. Hill, receiver of the Lincoln Savings bank, which closed its doors about three years ago, was under consideration. Much criticism was made on Mr. Hill's management in settling the affairs of the wrecked bank. Attorney Munger, for some depositors, criticized the receiver's report as being too indefinite and altogether unintelligible, and that his services had been of very little value. Mr. Wheeler, member of the court's committee, was opposed to allowing any such sum, was in favor of allowing only what the services proved to be worth. Mr. Davis, another of the committee, made quite a general and severe criticism on Receiver Hill's management.

Dr. King, one of the depositors, by permission of the court, proceeded with keen scalpel to uncover and expose the conspiracy through which Hill received his appointment, and protested against the payment of that or any other sum for his services, claiming that he had rendered none, but on the contrary, had been an impediment standing in the way of a settlement of the bank's affairs. He also presented strong evidences of Hill's incompetency and asked for his removal. Mrs. King, another depositor, followed her husband in an appeal to the court not so much for herself, as for those of her sex, and also of the poorer class who had been robbed of a finer hard earned cash. She handled the officers of the bank, Attorney Tibbets and Receiver Hill, without gloves, calling things by their right names very much to the satisfaction of all present excepting Hill and Tibbets.

Judge Holmes sustained Dr. and Mrs. King in much they had said and was glad to have granted them an opportunity to say it. Told Mr. Hill that no such amount as he claimed would be allowed and that his resignation would be very acceptable.

A Coming Issue.

The recommendation of General James Longstreet, commissioner of railroads, that the government build a double track line of railroad from Kansas City to San Diego, Cal., will not be carried out of course, but it shows what rapid strides government ownership is making among all classes of people. It is one of the coming issues in this country.—Industrial Leader.

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

It Orders the Secretaries to Make a Report on Local Freight Rates

THE INJUNCTION MODIFIED

Nothing Now in the Way to Prevent a Reduction of Exorbitant Charges.

Want Something Done.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the state board of transportation and handed to the secretaries, but up to the hour of going to press the secretaries had made no report.

Whereas, The board of transportation-railroad companies in the maximum freight rate cases to improperly embody in the decree of the United States circuit court for Nebraska in said cases two prohibitions totally foreign to the questions presented to the court for decision, viz: First, a prohibition whereby this board and the legislature of the state, was forbidden to reduce any one local freight rate fixed in the maximum freight rate to the rate fixed in the maximum freight rate law, even though the reduction of such rate would not unreasonably affect the earnings of the railroad companies, and second, a prohibition whereby this board and the legislature were prohibited from reducing the local freight rates below the rates charged by the railroad companies in 1894, thus, in effect, depriving the state of all power to regulate local freight rates while said decree remained unmodified.

Whereas, In May last the supreme court of the United States on the application of Attorney General Smyth, struck out of said decree the two prohibitions aforesaid and thus restored to this board and to the legislature the power to regulate freight rates.

Whereas, This board immediately after it was relieved of the shackles imposed upon it by its predecessor proceeded to inquire into the reasonableness of the local freight rates charged and to that end called upon the railroad companies of the state for information with respect to the cost of construction, present value of the roads, expenses of operation, earnings, etc., etc., all of which necessarily involved a great deal of time in preparation. Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the secretaries be and they are hereby instructed to vigorously prosecute the investigation heretofore commenced and report to this board at the earliest possible date the result of the investigation. And be it further

Resolved, That the said secretaries be and they are hereby instructed to report to this board on Monday, the 5th inst., whether the local rates on grain to Omaha are unreasonable as compared with the through rate to Chicago on the same commodity; whether the local rate on cattle to South Omaha are unreasonable as compared with the through rate thereon to Chicago; whether the rates from Omaha to points in the state are reasonable as compared with the rates from Council Bluffs to the same points, and whether any city or town in the state is being unjustly discriminated against.

ANOTHER RADICAL.

Says Allen was Beaten Because Reform Office Holders Feared to be Radical.

Editor Independent: Yes, "the campaign of 1900 is now on," and your suggestions that it be a campaign of education is eminently correct. But it is my belief that while the rank and file are taking lessons that they should be giving some lessons along the line of official probity. For instance, that a bribe is a bribe whether taken by a popocral official or a republican. That official economy by professed economic reformers cannot in the least expunge the crime of bribe taking. That when professed reformers lower the standard of reform to a mere scramble for the offices as has been the case in some counties in the state, such perily ought to be and will be repudiated by an intelligent public. That official dictatorship will not be tolerated by those who have sought freedom from such party tyrants by absorbing allegiance to old party machines.

The writer adopts with emphasis the following from an article by Capt. Ashby in the World-Herald of the 13th: "A disposition has been manifested to compromise and temporize. An evident desire to placate the plutocracy has been shown. The assurances publicly given through prepared interviews that 'nothing radical would be done' may have added to the respectability of our leaders in the eyes of the corporations, but it did not rouse grim warriors who stood to the ranks

and won the battles in the assured belief that many things radical would follow."

Mr. Ashby probably thought it inexpedient to tell more of the facts. But expediency when dealing with those who betray the people is a something the writer never learned. If the acts of officials will not bear the open daylight, then the X ray should be turned on. The people had labored for and voted that many things radical be done. Reason, justice and right demanded that corporate greed be curbed. After six years of labor and sacrifice, six years of abuse, taunts and vituperation, the people as they thought, had gotten possession of the law-making powers, honestly believing that some of their burdens would be lightened, some of their grievances redressed, but the consoling proclamation that "nothing radical would be done" was about all they got.

I speak from the record when I say that it was like pulling hens' teeth to get any measure of relief from corporate oppression through the last legislature. The fact of the freight rate law being held up by the courts might be made a pretext, but a valid reason never for the failure to enact much-needed legislation. There must have been some cause for this other than fear of being "too radical." It was the breaking of faith with the people that made Senator Allen's defeat possible. Had not the re-electing of that great man been at stake, many of the renominated legislative candidates would have been buried beyond hope of ever hearing the faintest toot of Gabriel's horn.

Many of the people became disheartened, their old time zeal and enthusiasm had gone, and enough of them stayed in the cornfields to harvest the beautiful crop Hanna gave them to make possible the retirement from the United States senate one of the ablest and most fearless champions of the rights of the masses that ever entered that body of able men.

The responsibility of this great calamity to the nation should be placed where it belongs. The lavish use of money no doubt had something to do with it, but all know that only a very small per cent of the farmers vote is purchasable. It was not that this vote was purchased, but was disgusted with nominations for the legislature two years ago by the sly—and to most of the people—unseen hand of paid corporation cappers, who again came before the conventions under the plea of the custom to give two terms.

For the benefit of those who question the prestige of the corporations, I will say that in Furnas county a change of corporation attorneys is made whenever the control of the county passes from one party to another. When the republicans were the dominant party, the attorney was a republican. When the populists came into power the republican attorney was transferred to a republican county, and a pop appointed. Now when we understand what is the chief duties of such attorneys—their political manipulations, etc.—the hand of Jacob is made plain.

JONATHAN HIGGINS.

GREAT MONEY POWER

Not an Abstract Conception but a Combination of the Shrewdest Minds on Earth

Shall Usury Cease?

Mr. R. Fenton has a powerful article in the Silver Knight. He starts out with a quotation from Lord Bacon. But it should be understood that when Lord Bacon used the word "usury" he meant what we now mean when we say "interest." Every scholar knows that the old English word "usury" meant hire for money. In later years it came to mean excessive or unjust charges for the use of money. Many old words have changed their meaning, some of them taking on an opposite meaning, as for instance the word "prevent," which, when the Bible was first translated, meant to assist or go before. Some persons will have to settle with St. Peter for the retention of the word usury in the revised version of the Bible which was issued only a few years ago. Let the following article be read—not only the quotation from Lord Bacon—but all of it with the understanding that "usury" means any payment for the use of money, either great or small.

Usury is the most powerful factor in the ruin of nations—Lord Bacon.

Money is power, power in its most concentrated and most subtly applicable form. It is the lever of the throttle valve of the mechanism of civilization; and the "money question"—the issue form its settlement will shape and control all other issues of our national and personal business lives—reads here in America not so much—"What shall be an American dollar?" as "Who shall control the American dollar?" In other words, "Will you, the sovereign people, stand by and allow that 'lever' to be placed by strategic legislation in the hands of a purely private and irresponsible foreign usury syndicate; or will you not rather retain that 'pull' in your own power, to be worked as a publicly owned public utility by those engi-

neers of your sociologic machinery, over whom you have at least a partial control through the press and ballot box?" This is the heart's core of American politics now; and the issue is about to be forced.

With an infinite patience and an infinite skill the hereditary captains of the cosmopolitan army of usury have imposed their financial domination upon the nations of the world, until of the civilized governments there remain but three which are not completely conquered—Russia, France, and, supremely, these United States of America. For nearly a hundred years the head center of a mighty conspiracy for the commercial domination of the whole world has sapped, mined and exploded one by one the social and political selfhoods of nation after nation by means of one consistent and persistent scheme. The huge bulk and lethargic self-centred commerce of the Russian empire, though they have made the field the gomben man's paradise and its people a benumbed carcass, wherein the gluttonous maggots of usury have filthy burrows, have hitherto baffled the intrigues of the great political money kings. By a genius as farseeing as even that of the sublim Nathan and a self will which scorns the financial sophistries of the agents of the epochal Hebrew, Napoleon established for France that automatic and self-centered system of national finance which, though now somewhat shaken, sustains her still in commercial and political independence. In this great empire of home ruled commonwealths the army of the cosmopolitan gold conspiracy occupies nearly every commercial, financial and political fortress; yet still, because the business sense of the great common people is aggressively awake and alive (to a very considerable degree at least) to the terrific changes which the "firm establishment" of the so-called "gold standard" would effect in the social and political condition of themselves and their children, we yet can be said to be free from actual subjection to the Semitic Sanhedrim, and may yet, in the near future, too, turn the tables on these conspirators.

Let us, then, all of us who are not usurers or the spiritless galley slaves of the money power educate each other upon this most intimately practical question, and so hold up each one other's hands in the struggle now on to resist the traitorously proposed transfer of our still existing sovereign power to control our national monetary system into the hands of a foreign combination, who would by their control of it straightway proceed to wipe out of existence every purely American banking institution would once more double our national debt upon our backs, and would reduce in short order the selling figures of every bit of real property throughout the country to the half or less its present attenuated market price.

And there lies hid below the thin sophistries of the McCleary bill a still deeper pitfall, a gulph in which United States nationality would go down to devastation. Do not for a moment forget from now onward through every phase of this battle, that the "money power" is not an abstract conception, but is a personal combination of a number of the most shrewd and indomitable minds on earth, working out a prearranged plan of world-wide domination in most faithful and inflexible concert; a combination made permanent by hereditary succession, and the solidarity of a racial purpose. To it discriminate territorial bounds are but as the different paddocks of the cattle man; and the several people who choose to "nationalize" themselves therein are but as so many herds of stock to be put to profit. Even if the lying argument they call the "gold standard" system, were in itself the best monetary system, yet yet would not its adoption by Americans individually or to the United States in its world struggle for national wealth and power; because the "homestead" of this cosmopolitan farm is the city of London in the home paddock of England; and if the United States should, under the curse of God, finally and bindingly shackel her people and institutions with the prescriptions of that satanic juggle, she will no longer possess a national monetary system, but will as a strict political fact, be subject to the demands and requirements of the financial system of the British empire, which is run absolutely (teste India) by (and for the wider policies of) the Gold Sanhedrim, whose cosmic operations roll juggernaut-like over the mere local interests of any given section of territory or congeries of the exploited human cattle.

But if, as the outcome of the coming death grapple, the American people should route the conspirators and restore their existing national monetary system to its original constitutional fullness, that fullness can be opened, as the wish Franklin intended it should be, so as to supply this nation with a plenary volume of true "American" money, sound, safe and serviceable, and, above all, of a continuously stable "value," and by so doing formulate and materialize a new plan for human advancement upon the basis of a more just system of political economy than the world has ever attained to—a system wherein "usury" shall cease to find any place among the "business interests" of the coming United States of America and Oceania.

Under the spell of that powerful manifesto, discord could not breathe. It concentrated in one mighty utterance the political wrongs and rights of all. It thrilled through the party press and our editors wrote as men inspired. It breathed life into the dry bones of men who had been politically dead for a quarter of a century. It opened the eyes of men born politically blind. It put "small politics" and "pocketbook patriotism" to shame. It was pre-eminently the people's platform and not a single plank affair to accommodate the politicians. The rank and file of our party hailed it as a new declaration of independence and rallied around it with that whole hearted enthusiasm without which no reform movement can ever succeed.

A blow struck at that declaration, however covertly aimed, was a blow at the heart of the party. Such a blow was struck by some of our leaders under the specious plea of "practical politics." But four short years after that memorable scene at Omaha, that immortal document, which breathed the breath of life into the people's independent party and made it a living soul, was put in "abeyance" to facilitate fusion with a party not yet awakened to the terrible condition which prompted its declarations. The flag of our party, in loyalty to which we were enrolled, and which we had covered with glory in our first heroic battle, hauled down in favor of a free silver pennant. Need we look further for the cause of the lack of populist enthusiasm in subsequent campaigns?

It was as if the continental congress had put the declaration of independence in "abeyance" after the first battle of the revolution and continued the war on the single issue of colonial taxation. It was as if an invading army, after making a terrible demonstration before the citadels of the ene-

(Continued on page 8.)

FOR A NEW CRUSADE

Let us Rescue the Temple of Liberty From the Political Saracens.

A BAND OF ENTHUSIASTS

A Moral Force of Sublime Courage and Uncompromising Righteousness.

Bigger Than Free Silver.

Editor Independent:

As one in the ranks who has both felt and deplored the gradual ebb of that enthusiasm which characterized the early campaigns of our party, I was glad to notice by reading the articles of W. H. Ashby, J. Burrows and your own editorials in your issue of November 17th that some, at least, of the influential members of our party had read aright the lessons of the late campaign and instead of attributing the falling off in our vote to extravagant claims, as is the almost invariable custom, have had the courage to frankly admit the failure of our own methods to arouse the enthusiasm of our party.

As we claim to be distinctively "the people's party," I think it would not be amiss, in the quiet interim between the last and the coming campaigns, to have an expression of opinion from those members of the rank and file who, though not politicians in the commoner acceptance of the term, may reasonably be supposed to have some idea of the causes of their own lack of enthusiasm. I think you strike the nail on the head in the very first sentence of your editorial—"A Grave Mistake," viz: "The great mistake of the reform press is the tendency to adopt the campaign methods so long in vogue in the politics of the country," but I think you ought to have coupled the party leaders with the press in the indictment, as most of our editors take their cue from those in charge of our campaign. Further on you say: "The reform movement is a purely intellectual force" and is "practically inefficacious."

In its inception it was more than that. It was a great moral revolt from the corrupt and cold-blooded machine methods of the old parties which are fast undermining the very foundations of our free institutions. It was a new crusade to rescue the holy temple of our liberties from the hands of the Saracens of political infidelity. Inspired by the Deus vult that rose from the hearts of the reformers, our early leaders entered upon it with all the fervent zeal of the heroes of the old crusades.

What populist can ever forget that great swelling tide of moral enthusiasm which swept through the Omaha convention on the reading of our first national declaration. What was it in that grand document which stirred to its depths the heart of every delegate and sent them back to their several states to the very storm centers of political energy and enthusiasm? It was the moral force in its sublime courage and uncompromising thoroughness, from the beginning of the preamble, with its terrible summary of governmental abuses down to the last resolution.

Under the spell of that powerful manifesto, discord could not breathe. It concentrated in one mighty utterance the political wrongs and rights of all. It thrilled through the party press and our editors wrote as men inspired. It breathed life into the dry bones of men who had been politically dead for a quarter of a century. It opened the eyes of men born politically blind. It put "small politics" and "pocketbook patriotism" to shame. It was pre-eminently the people's platform and not a single plank affair to accommodate the politicians. The rank and file of our party hailed it as a new declaration of independence and rallied around it with that whole hearted enthusiasm without which no reform movement can ever succeed.

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