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Vested interests forever stand in the way of human progress.

Attention is called to an article in another column headed, "About Campaign Funds." It takes an old pop farmer to get at the fundamental principles.

J. Sterling Morton has organized a new party. It has been named the conservative party. So far but one voter has joined it. His name is J. Sterling Morton.

The republicans say they are not for free trade yet, and the only reason that they are in favor of "the open door" in the Philippines is because it is too warm a country to close it.

The republicans who have so long prayed: "Oh! let the kingdom of Hannu come," can now rejoice with exceedingly great joy for he has both houses of congress and the president.

"In that little book of interest tables" said Napoleon, "lies a great fact concealed which threatens to devour the whole world." Bonds, interest, paupers and millionaires. That is the process.

At a cost of two million dollars or more we freed 5,000,000 colored people after sacrificing half a million lives. Now McKinley has bought seven million more and paid \$20,000,000 for them. This is cheap. Less than \$3.00 a head.

"Thou shalt not steal," was a platform that was voted down with an overwhelming majority in Pennsylvania. The Quaker state has repudiated the ten commandments and worships only the blink-eyed Matt Quay. His majority is bigger than ever.

Old Butterine puts up a big displayed head to announce the fact that the bureau of engraving and printing at Washington saved \$43,000 last year in the cost of printing. But the saving of more than twice that much by the populist state government it calls a sham reform. Old Butterine has a greasy conscience.

The national debt was increased \$16,000,000 last month—a little over half a million a day. That is exactly to the liking of the banks and the bond holders. It will not be many months until that other \$200,000,000 of bonds authorized by congress will be on the market. It seems that nothing will satisfy the republican crowd but foreign wars, more taxes and more bonds.

The tariff barons are just now agitating the revival of American shipping, but instead of advising that the tribute to the steel trust paid by means of the Dingley tariff be cut off, they want a big subsidy voted by congress. Nothing more infamous could be suggested, but they have both houses of congress and the president.

Another convincing proof of the high state that McKinley prosperity has reached in Lincoln is contained in the report of the street commissioner who says that so many men apply to work on the streets that "a register is kept of those who apply first, so that they may be worked in order." Now who dare deny that she is here?

A subscriber to the INDEPENDENT writes: "If some of the articles that have recently appeared in your paper could only be gotten into the hands of honest republicans, who know nothing about the money question, what a world of good they would do." Well we must do like we used to do when we fought together in the old Alliance ranks. Whenever we saw a real good article, we took the pains to hand it to some neighbor. In that way we built up the reform press and made the party.

The thing that most exasperates the bankers is that they shall be forced to earn money before they can loan it and get interest on it. Everyone else has to do that, but the bankers insist that a law shall be passed authorizing them to simply manufacture the money—a thing that anybody else must be sent to the penitentiary for doing—and loan it out without ever having earned a cent of it. No one but a multi-headed republican would ever think of granting such a privilege to any one.

THE WAR LORD.

This nation, in a little over a hundred years, has grown from a few struggling colonies along the Atlantic seaboard to be the mightiest nation on earth. During all that time we have held to a certain line of policy foreshadowed by Washington, Jefferson, and other founders of the nation. Now we are told that the things said by these men, and which we have always declared to be eternal truths, are not such at all, but only policies of government, to be abolished or modified as occasion requires. We have held that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed was an eternal truth. Now it is said that it is not that at all, and was not so intended by Jefferson when he wrote it, but was only a bit of sentiment thrown into a public document for the purpose of firing the American heart and keeping up the courage of the troops that were fighting for independence.

For over a hundred years the senate of the United States has assembled in the capitol at Washington on the 22d day of February and listened to the farwell address of Washington and then adjourned. Will the senate meet on the 22d day of next February and listen to a document that has been repudiated? For over a hundred years we have assembled on the Fourth of July and heard read the Declaration of Independence. Will we, on the next Fourth of July, assemble and listen to the reading of a document every important principal of which we have repudiated?

For a hundred years we have looked upon the constitution as the safeguard of liberty. Now it is a worn out document to be set aside at the whim of a war lord at Washington. The Philippines are to be annexed and become a part of the United States. The constitution provides that the right of the people to bear arms shall not be infringed, but the war lord at Washington will set that provision aside as to the Philippines, Cuba, and Porto Rico. The constitution provides that no person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime unless on the presentment of a grand jury. The war lord will set that aside also.

The constitution provides that in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy trial by jury. The war lord will do that provision utterly inapplicable to the inhabitants of the Philippines and will set it aside.

The constitution says that the powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states are reserved to the people. The war lord will pay no attention to that.

The constitution says that all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States, and no state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of any citizen of the United States nor deprive any person of life, liberty or property without the due process of law, nor deny to any person the equal protection of the law. The war lord will pay no attention to that. He will set up a military government outside of the constitution.

The constitution says the right of the citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. That provision will be particularly obnoxious to the war lord and he will simply trample it beneath his feet.

What will the imperialists do on the next 4th of July? Will they assemble and play the hypocrite by applauding the words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," or will they omit the reading of what we once called an immortal document?

Whatever the rest of them do, here is one citizen who is going to stand by the old truths and defend the principles of government which have made this nation the great and powerful nation it is today.

IT MEANS A DRAFT.

A Havana correspondent, writing to the Chicago Record, says that the medical staff of the army is making arrangements for the case in hospitals of 40 per cent of the entire force that is to be sent to Cuba. Expansion and imperialism may be all right, but what sense is there in sending our boys to Cuba to die in hospitals? Are we to go back on the word of honor of this nation, disgrace ourselves before the whole world, and annex Cuba? It begins to look very much like this Mark Hanna administration intends to do that very thing. There is a Cuban army. It is brave, well officered, and acclimated. Why not employ that army to establish order and set up a government? That would be common sense. If things go on much longer in the line followed by this government, we will be having this same Cuban army to fight. We can tell Mr. McKinley right now that if such a thing as that occurs he will not get volunteers. It means a draft and such an upheaval in this country as it has not seen since 1861. The people of this country believe in keeping our pledged word to the Cubans as well as to bondholders. Then there are the Philippines kicking up a

rumpus. It is said that 70,000 soldiers will have to be sent there. That means more drafting. We had better adopt Kaiser William's way and make every young man serve three years in the army whether he wants to or not. It seems that Senator Hoar was not far wrong when he declared that the downfall of this republic would date from the election of McKinley. There is one comfort—this writer did not vote for McKinley.

COWARDLY CAPITALISTS.

The gold bug press is fond of saying that "capital is timid." Now, capital can neither be timid nor brave. It is an inanimate thing, and has no emotions whatever. But as to capitalists, that is a different thing. They are not only timid, but for the most part despicable cowards. They tremble and cringe before power as a spaniel licks the feet of its master. Business men of all classes are for the most part cowards when confronted by a railroad magnate. An example of this occurred last week at St. Louis, where they assembled at the nod of the railroads to pass resolutions against the ticket scalpers. It was not to their interest to do it at all, but they were two cowardly to face the displeasure of the railroad magnates. The courts have decided time and again that a railroad ticket is property, and a man has a right to transfer it to the ownership of another party the same as any other kind of property. But if a man buys a ticket and only uses a part of it, the railroads want to prohibit him from selling the unused portion so they can sell another and get that much clear gain. It is not to the interest of merchants that the roads should be so favored, but if a railroad magnate winks they will assemble in a giddy and denounce ticket brokers. They are simply a lot of cowards, and that is the truth about the matter.

OXNARD'S CLAIM.

Old Butterine announces that the coming republican legislature will appropriate \$125,000 to Oxnard for sugar bounties. If this legislature represented a majority of the people it would be perfectly right for Governor Poynter to sign such a bill, but it does not, and therefore Mr. Oxnard will have to content himself by repeating the old phrase: "So near, and yet so far." If a majority of the people had voted for the re-instatement of the old order of things at the statehouse, under those circumstances it would be all right to donate Mr. Oxnard \$125,000. What the people vote for they ought to have. Old Butterine also says that there will be deficiencies to make good to the amount of \$186,785. To make out that amount it figures in this Oxnard claim and \$50,000 for wolf scalp that every legislature has refused to pay for the last ten years. That is the way old Butterine greases up things in advance for the meeting of the legislature. Without doubt the old oil room in the basement will be stocked up and ready by the time the republican Solons arrive. The very idea of the return of the good old days, with Brad Slaughter, Tim Sedgwick, Paul Vandervoort, Walt Seeley, and all the old gang running things, makes the eyes of the war horses twinkle—but the republican cornhuskers who voted them in will not be here. They will stay at home and feed the hogs.

BUTTERINE'S LIES.

Old Butterine published a long list one day of what he said were deficiencies which the pope had made in order to make a showing for economy. The whole thing was such an outrageous string of lies that the next day it was forced to take it all back. Did it do it in a straight forward and honorable way? Not much. At the tail of a long article under a display head concerning a man who had been pardoned out of the penitentiary, it printed the following:

In the list of deficiency claims which Auditor Cornell will lay before the legislature the amount of such claims from the attorney general's office and the auditor's office were published incorrectly. The claim from the auditor's office is \$100 instead of \$1,000 and the amount from the attorney general's office is \$200 instead of 2,000. The warden of the penitentiary did not send in an estimate for current expenses for the biennium. Auditor Cornell made out a statement of his own in which he asks for over \$53,000 for the penitentiary.

Now is the proper time for a lot of pop editors to put up a big free ad for the State Journal, advising their readers to subscribe for it so as to get the "news" from the capitol. The INDEPENDENT will have no objection to the pop editors running that ad, providing that they insert "lies from the capitol," instead of "news from the capitol."

It is as natural for a republican to arrogate omniscience to himself as it is to breathe. They will talk about "manifest destiny" and the "purpose of providence" as if no one could doubt that they were the depositaries of that information. The whole speech of John L. Webster at Omaha the other night was based upon the assumption that he knew what the "manifest destiny" of this nation was and what the divine purposes were in regard to it. In other words, John L. Webster speaks the mind of God, and no one has a right to dispute any position that he takes in regard to imperialism.

THE STATE PRISON STAMP.

One of the bills strongly championed by Representative Liddell of Douglas county in the last Nebraska legislature required all goods manufactured by convict labor, whether working directly for the state or under contract, to be stamped "convict made." The bill failed to become a law, but evoked a very lively discussion on the house.

As the same question, and in fact the whole problem of penitentiary management, will come up before the next legislature, the recent legislation in New York state, and the still more recent decision of the New York court of appeals upon such legislation, is of interest to Nebraska readers.

The New York legislature of 1895, in response to the general demands of labor organizations for protection from the competition of prison made goods, passed the following act:

"Section 1. All goods, wares and merchandise made by convict labor in any penitentiary, prison, reformatory or other establishment in which convict labor is employed shall, before being sold, or exposed for sale, be branded, labeled, or marked as hereinafter provided, and shall not be exposed for sale in any place within this state without such brand, label, or mark.

"Section 2. The brand, label or mark hereby required shall contain at the head or top thereof the words 'convict made,' followed by the year, and name of the penitentiary, prison, reformatory or other establishment in which it was made, in plain English lettering, of the style and size known as great primer Roman condensed capitals. The brand or mark shall be in all cases, where the nature of the article will permit, be placed upon the same, and only where such branding or marking is impossible shall a label be used, and where a label is used it shall be in the form of a paper tag, which shall be attached by wire to each article, where the nature of the article will permit, and placed securely upon the box, crate, or other covering in which such goods, wares, or merchandise may be packed, shipped, or exposed for sale. Said brand, mark, or label shall be placed upon the outside of and upon the most conspicuous part of the finished article and its box, crate, or covering.

"Section 3. Section 384 of the penal code is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 345b. Penalty for dealing in convict-made goods without labeling.—A person having in his possession for the purpose of sale, or offering for sale, any convict-made goods, wares or merchandise hereafter manufactured and sold, or exposed for sale, in this state without the brand, mark, or label required by law, or removes or defaces such brand, mark or label, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 nor less than \$100 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year nor less than ten days, or both."

A man was arrested and convicted of violating this statute. His counsel took the case before the court of appeals, contending that the law was unconstitutional. The court's opinion sustains their claim. In a long written opinion the court says:

"Any law which annihilates the value of property, restricts its use, or takes away any of its essential attributes, comes within the purview of this limitation upon legislative power. The validity of all such laws is to be tested by the purpose of their enactment and the practical effect and operation that they may have upon property. A law which interferes with property by depriving the owner of the profitable and free use of it, or hampers him in the application of it for the purposes of trade or commerce, or imposes conditions upon the right to hold or sell it, may seriously impair its value, against which the constitution is a protection. The fact that legislation hostile to the rights of property assumes the guise of a health law or a labor law will not save it from judicial scrutiny, since the courts cannot permit that to be done by indirection which cannot be done directly.

"It would be difficult to give any satisfactory reason, legal, moral, or economic, why a person who happens to be confined in a prison should not be permitted or compelled to earn his living or pay his way instead of becoming a burden upon the public, to the detriment of his health and morals. The mere fact that he is in prison may be due to misfortune or to his natural surroundings, and in some cases he may be at least morally innocent. The state may certainly, for his own benefit, and for the relief of the taxpaying community, employ him at some useful labor, and whether that labor be in building roads or making shoes, he takes the place of another. If it be lawful and right to so employ him, it is difficult to see why the state may by legislation depress the value of the products of his labor when such property is purchased in the ordinary course of commerce by a dealer therein. The state, while permitting such property to come within its jurisdiction in the regular course of trade, cannot then impair its value by hostile legislation without a violation of the constitutional guarantee for the protection of property. Aside from the secular restrictions of the revenue laws, the merchant or dealer may buy his goods where he can obtain them to the best advantage, and any restriction upon his freedom of action in this respect by state laws is, in a broad sense, an invasion of his right of liberty, since that term comprehends the right of the individual to pursue any lawful calling.

"I think that the statute in question is in conflict with the constitution of this state, since it interferes with the right to acquire, possess and dispose of property and with the liberty of the individual to earn a living by dealing in the articles embraced within the scope of the law. It is an unauthorized limitation upon the freedom of the individual to buy and sell all such articles, subject only to the law of supply and demand, and the legislation is not within the scope of the police power.

The effect of this decision is to kill all restrictive legislation against convict-made goods in New York state. If the laws laid down here are adhered to by the courts in western states (an altogether probable outcome), it will be the end of legislation against prison goods. While the courts are thus holding

against the efforts of the labor organizations to suppress competition of convict labor with free labor, the sentiment against competition of that kind grows continually more active and keen in the public mind—especially that part of it outside of the immediate effect of this competition. More and more as the workmen in each department of life learn by tragic experience in their own lives the disastrous effect of competition that crowds the laborer away from his bread does the sense of sympathy with other workmen grow strong.

The recent Illinois case, where negro laborers from the south were being brought in by great coal corporations to take the daily wages from the homes of white workmen, is a strong illustration. Probably four-fifths of the people who live by work with their hands approve the sentiments of the governor of Illinois on that occasion. And the struggle of free labor to prevent competition with convict labor has probably a stronger public sentiment back of it now than ever before, in spite of court decisions. Sooner or later the state of Nebraska will be called upon to manage the labor of all her convicts instead of continuing the present part state part contract system.

NO END OF PARTIES.

Of the making of parties under the Australian ballot system there is no end. The ability that the agents of the money power has always showed has another example in the way they use that system in manufacturing new parties to catch the voters who cannot be forced to vote their ticket, and thus kill the effective opposition that would come from them if they voted with an opposition party that had some hope of success. Many persons have been astonished at the number of parties and emblems that have appeared on the official tickets in Colorado. There, the voters being practically unanimous in opposition to the gold standard, the republicans have devoted themselves to the manufacture of new parties by the whole sale. If in any section the republicans thought they could prevent two or three hundred voters from voting the fusion ticket by manufacturing a new party, they were always willing to pay five hundred or a thousand dollars to get enough signers to a petition so that they could be put on the official ballot. In every part of the United States Mark Hanna is furnishing money to start up new parties. One that has had much assistance from him has polled enough votes—one percent—to be put on the regular ticket hereafter in Ohio. Social labor parties, referendum parties, in fact any sort of a party that will keep voters from voting against the gold standard who will not vote the republican ticket, can get abundance of help from the enormous funds of the money power to get signers on petitions or money for organization. These sharpers seem to be able to fool some of the people all the time.

The vileness of the republican campaign was so perfectly awful that a look at it even from this distance is enough to turn one's stomach. Take that Home of the Friendless dodge. If the populist state officers had turned over the money appropriated for its support to the persons demanding it, it would not have been twenty-four hours before they would have been arrested. Even the judge who tried the case, after saying that his sympathies were all with the other side, he being a republican, declared that there was no shadow of law under which the populist state officers could be required to pay over the money to the private parties who were so vehemently demanding it. Every state officer connected with such a transaction would have been arrested for embezzlement, and old Butterine would have been the first to demand it.

If any one wants to know just the point that prosperity has reached in Lincoln, let him walk along Eleventh street and count the two hundred or two hundred and fifty idle men who always stand along the sides of the street watching the asphaltum steam roller as it presses the material for the new pavement. The only men at work are those who are paid by issuing bonds. After a while the bonds and the interest on them will have to be paid. How much prosperity will result from that?

The republican papers are everywhere advising the populists and democrats to drop silver. They assure us that if we only will, that we would have a much better chance of carrying the next election. Of course the gold bugs are very anxious that we should defeat them in the next battle and are giving us that advice for the purpose of enabling us to do so. No doubt about that. Perhaps we may take their advice and go in for purely scientific money. The only thing that has prevented us from doing it before, is that there are a lot of government bonds outstanding which we agreed to pay in a gold and silver coin, of specified weight and fineness. But why couldn't we pay them in their much worshipped gold ever easier and better after we had demonetized it? We have never made an agreement with the bond holders that we would not.

Dr. Aloy, Nervous, female and chronic diseases, 1114 1/2 street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Blank and testimonials free.

"Eight years ago" said Wharton Barker, "the peoples party was formed by those men who saw in the supremacy of the democratic and republican parties nothing but the downtreading of the people." But where was Wharton Barker about that time? Whooping it up for the republican party and the tariff barons with all his might—telling the people that protective tariffs were the salvation of the world. He still thinks that "those men who formed the peoples party" are entirely incompetent to run it, so he is going to run it for them.

The latest advices state that the Philippines are on the rampage. They want to be free and independent and are down on annexation. It is very evident that these Philippines are a poor, ignorant set, and it is the "manifest destiny" of this nation to send over there 100,000 of our best young men, and let half of them be killed or die of disease so we can teach those barbarians what the "divine purpose" in regard to them is. John L. Webster has told us very plainly what our destiny and the divine purpose is, so that we cannot make the excuse that we did not know. Imperialism demands the lives of 50,000 of our young men. Nothing short of that will satisfy this Moloch. If the young men will not offer themselves as sacrifices, the gentle-hearted McKinley will kindly draft them.

The following is the valuation of property in the city of Omaha for the purpose of taxation:

Lands	\$ 2,271,820
City lots	12,535,880
Additions	14,321,420
Railroads	132,584
Belt line	61,500
Telegraph companies	3,268
Pullman company	1,230
Insurance	155,259
Banks	886,967
Ordinary personal	4,842,685

Out of a total of \$35,209,065 of taxable property all the banks, all the railroads and all the public corporations combined pay taxes on only a little over \$1,000,000! Some of the banks, if they were taxed in the same proportion that the working man is on his cottage, would be assessed for more than the whole pile of them.

HARDY'S COLUMN.

assessments—Omaha Beer Garden—Which Dollar—New England Storms—Farmers' Trust—Expansion and Imperialism.

If I were a republican and voted for Joe Bartley I would say nothing about Meserve's "straw bond." The devil always wants church members to walk straight. Every man on Meserve's bond is sound except three or four gold bugs and they flattened after signing. We would do away with bonds altogether. If the people elect a treasurer and he turns out a thief, the people ought to stand it. Next time they will be more likely to elect honest men, as they did after Joe Bartley showed up.

Next month the republicans will be in the legislative saddle. Wonder if they will roll up expenses as they did when in their glory. Perhaps, being whipped two years ago may cool them off a little. Three waiters for each senator and twenty more to do the writing was once their highest ambition. Thank fortune there will be a governor who can veto and there will be no chance of passing anything over it. Give us reforms and we do not care who brings it. Reforms are only measured by less taxes. Stick the office holders to the letter and spirit of the constitution and the people will say amen.

A new method of assessing city property should be adopted. It may be embodied in our new charter, but better that it be made a state law, applying to all cities and incorporated towns. Require the assessor to assess the lot first, as though it was vacant, assess what improvements are on the lot, buildings and whatever of value connected with the lot.

The Omaha beer garden will probably run next year and the year after. If the railroads would give the same reduction of fare all over the state, to every place and in every direction, we would not care so much; but it is unjust to the merchants in other parts of the state, the way railroads were run last season. The man who bought a round trip ticket to Omaha could not stop to buy a cup of coffee either going or coming without paying full fare after that. Every city and village should boycott Omaha if justice cannot be had any other way.

Will Samuel pay Spain in Spanish dollars or in two hundred cent American dollars? Silver in Spain, Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippine islands will buy just as much property and merchandise as it ever would. It will be one of the curses of civilization, the gold standard, that we will carry to these islands. That with other civilized diseases go together.

D. E. Thompson and pass holders ought to harmonize. They are ducks of the same pond. Railroads first and the people afterwards. The Union Pacific has one senator and the B. & M. should have the other. A leading republican told us the other day that none but pops wanted Thompson, thereby hoping to ruin the grand old party.

It appears New England had a full grown western blizzard. Hundreds of lives have gone out and scores of vessels gone to pieces. Nebraska is not the stamping ground of all the storms and yet eastern people think we have continued storms, blizzards and cyclones. Nebraska is good enough for us anyway.

Farm produce is probably higher to-