

Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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If it is "manifest destiny," why don't they show up the manifest?

Every time the government issues bonds, down goes the price of wheat. Look over the record and see if there is a single exception.

It is said that the small bankers have swarmed into Washington in such numbers that they have killed the McHenry bill. The bimetallics let them know the meaning of that bill. They would never have found it out otherwise.

Old Butterine says that the Massachusetts fishermen catch \$20,000,000 worth of cod and "so forth" off the banks of Newfoundland every year. These latter kind of fish have never yet appeared in the western markets. The Yankees must keep them all for their own use.

The Associated Press is sending out a lot of political rot about the United States senate being safe for the gold standard until 1907. One-third of the senate will be elected in two years from now and if the bimetallic forces are strong enough to elect a president, they will also elect a majority of the senate.

Two republican United States senators and one governor stand indicted before the courts for felonious offenses. That does not include Mark Hanna who must stand a trial before the senate for bribery. The party upholds every one of them and not a denunciation is to be seen in any republican paper of the men among their leaders who have become so foul that the grand juries have had to look after them. Great is the g. o. p.

There is a pop paper printed out in Custer county that has turned itself wrong side out and goes out among the people with its insides outside, exposed to the view of the whole community. When the busy exchange editor after much trouble succeeds in getting its insides back where they belong he finds it worth reading. There is another pop paper published over in Joliet, Ill. It comes folded up in three separate sheets. By the time the editorial page is found the searcher is so out of humor that he generally won't read it at all.

Answer to several correspondents: The board of transportation is composed of the following state officers, namely: the treasurer, Mr. Moserve; the commissioner of public lands and buildings, Mr. Wolfe; the secretary of state, Mr. Porter; the auditor, Mr. Cornell; the attorney-general, Mr. Smythe. The secretaries of the board are Mr. J. A. Edger-ton; Mr. G. L. Laws and Mr. J. C. Dahlman. There is not now and has not been since May, any injunction or other legal obstacle in the way to prevent an order being issued to reduce freight rates in this state.

There will be no more football games after the socialists, the trusts and the corporations get through with us. "Competition" is to be eliminated from the field of human activities. Of course if it is wrong to enter into competition for property, it is also wrong to compete in a foot race or for a prize at college. The trusts are down on competition. It thinks that if some other fellow should build another line and compete with it for passengers, that it would be all wrong. The thing that is wrong is not competition. In very few occupations is there any chance for competition. The monopolists and socialists work together in such a way as to completely destroy it.

A socialist editor up in South Dakota calls the INDEPENDENT an "alleged populist paper" and its editor "this fellow" and says that he is "very foolish." Then he says: "From the result in Nebraska it would look to an outsider as though a little help from the socialists might have been of considerable value." If all the socialists in the state had given their assistance it would have not amounted to a feather's weight! After all the help they got from the gold bugs, they could only poll in the whole state 248 votes. Then he talks about the socialist plank in the populist platform. There is not a socialist plank in the populist platform and never has been. There was one populist convention over in Illinois that once adopted such a plank. The populist party of the state died right there and then. It has never been heard of since.

A LETTER ANSWERED.

Several gentlemen have recently sent articles to the editor of the INDEPENDENT on economic questions with a request that he read them and point out the errors if he should find any. To one of these he sent the following reply. The matter being of general interest, the letter is published for the information of others who are seeking light upon some of the abstruse problems of economics.

"Your article contains one of the best statements I ever saw of the theory advocated, and which up to 1893 was advocated by all the statesmen who opposed the John Sherman plan. It is known among economists as the 'Automatic Theory.'" However when the sharp intellectual contest came on in 1893 in the United States senate, the advocates of bimetallicism were forced to abandon it.

"Economists never use the terms 'hard money,' 'soft money' or 'scientific money,' for a thing is money or is not money and any adjective attached to the term money is superfluous.

"It seems to me that the difficulty with your article is the want of a definite conception of what value is. The classical writers on political economy define value to be 'power in exchange.' That is, anything that cannot be exchanged for money or any commodity has no value. Senator John P. Jones' definition is far better in any popular discussion of the money question. He says: 'Value is human estimation placed on desirable objects, the quantity of which is limited.' That being the case you will readily see that labor cost cannot in any sense fix value. Of two pieces of calico produced at exactly the same labor cost, one may have value and the other none at all, for one may be of such a horrible color or pattern that no one desires it. Both pieces may be of the same utility—both would have the same amount of wear in them—but one would have value and the other would not. You see that neither utility nor labor cost fixes value. It is the desirability of things and the limitation of quantity that fixes value. The most desirable thing on earth would have no value if the quantity were unlimited. Take the air we breathe. It has no value because the quantity is unlimited. Limit the quantity and men would give all they had for a supply.

"It follows therefore, that any law that will make a thing desirable, that was not before desirable, will create a value. See the speech of Senator John P. Jones, page 102 and pages 174 to 183 inclusive, where a great many authorities are cited.

"Of course an irredeemable money would have no value. That is just as true of gold however as of paper money. A greenback is not valuable because the government at Washington will redeem it, but because any civilized man in any part of the world who has goods for sale or services for hire will redeem it. If a greenback could only be redeemed at Washington or at a few bank counters, its value would be greatly reduced. No man accepts a greenback because it is redeemable at Washington but because it has power in exchange, that is, he knows he can exchange it for anything that he desires that is for sale or any service that is for hire. In fact, the exchanging one kind of money for another is not redemption at all in any sense of the word, for nothing has been accomplished. Neither party has been benefited nor has lost anything, except the time spent in the useless operation.

"Value being human estimation placed on desirable objects, the quantity of which is limited, it cannot by any conceivable process be measured. In follows, therefore, that there is no such thing as a measure of value." There is no place in economics for such a term. Values are estimated, not measured.

"In conclusion let me say that money is not a substance. Don't be startled at the broad statement. All the 'real' things in this world are not substances—they have neither length, breadth nor thickness. Take the thing we call 'intelligence.' It cannot be seen with the eye nor handled with the hands. Chemical analysis will fail to discover it. The microscope will not reveal it. Darwin says that earth worms, one of the lowest orders of animal in existence, have intelligence, and it is by their intelligence they live. Not intelligence out of existence and all mankind and all animals, his would disappear within thirty days. Yet intelligence is not a substance. It has not dimension. So don't be startled at the assertion that money, the most powerful instrument of oppression ever invented by man, is not a substance.

"Gold is not money. Silver is not money. No material substance is or ever can be money. A five dollar gold coin, you say is money. Strike it with a sledge hammer and the money is gone, but all the material substance is left. Money is immaterial, is a creation of law and its value a law made value.

"William P. St. John, president of the Commercial National bank of New York, than whom there never was a more accurate thinker or thorough economist in the United States, in his testimony before the Springer committee in 1893 said: 'Perfection in money involves neither the use of gold or silver nor any other commodity. . . . I will describe perfect money, to wit: Any convenient substance of about the 'intrinsic' properties of silk-ribbed paper, prepared to

defy the counterfeit, issued by the authority of the law of the United States, and promising no redemption whatever, except acceptance for all dues to the United States, and also made receivable and payable for all dues and debts, public private, within the jurisdiction of the United States.'

"I have no doubt that some day, perhaps in the distant future, that that will be the kind of money used by all civilized nations. But before that day arrives there are many fierce battles to be fought and much education of the people to be done. I do not expect to live to see it. Yet it may come sooner than any of us expect."

CUBAN TARIFFS.

The editor of the INDEPENDENT has received a letter from an old newspaper acquaintance who is traveling in Cuba and Porto Rico. In his letter he says: "I am astonished at the statements made in the Associated Press reports that the tariffs have been reduced one-half are wholly false. The occupation by our forces has raised the tariff above the Spanish rate and doubled the postage and telegraph charges. There is a nominal reduction of the tariff, but duties must now be paid in gold standard money instead of the silver standard which results in an actual increase of the tariff. It seems to me that it does not require very much intelligence to comprehend the fact, that the change from the silver standard to the gold standard doubles all kinds of taxes as well as all debts. The change of the money systems in these islands will work a greater oppression than the Spanish ever inflicted upon them. The old Spanish tariffs were much easier to pay under the silver standard than the new tariffs under the gold standard. The people here are just finding it out and there is likely to be trouble."

The Associated Press is the greatest instrument ever invented for keeping the people of these United States in ignorance. If the reform forces don't invent some way to get the news from Washington they might as well quit business.

FREIGHT RATES.

Republican members of the incoming legislature are telling their constituents that this republican legislature will reduce local freight rates in this state, a thing that the fusion legislature refused to do. Of course they will not inform them that the last legislature was enjoined by the supreme court of the United States from reducing rates, and the average republican voter is so ignorant of public affairs that he does not know it. There is not a particle of doubt that the coming legislature will reduce rates on car load lots and then the members will go home and say: "Look at what we have done for the farmers of Nebraska!" Then they will go into the next campaign and say: "If you want to support a party that brings the corporations to time, vote the republican ticket. The pops bragged and bragged what they would do to the corporations when they got into office and when they got there they didn't do a thing to them."

Just the minute that a law is passed reducing rates on car load lots that come into the state, the railroads will bill all the salt, lumber, agricultural implements and everything else that comes into the state in car load lots straight through from the point where they originate to the point of final delivery in this state. That will make it "inter-state commerce" and the rates established by the Nebraska legislature will not apply to them. It is a very pretty scheme and they will work it for all there is in it.

A SINGLE TAX FALLACY.

Thomas G. Sherman, one of the most distinguished advocates of the single tax system, sums up the theories of Henry George in the following words:

The renting value of land aside from that given by any improvements placed upon it, is not conferred by the owner but by society at large, and being conferred by society rightfully belongs to the state. And rightfully belonging to the state it should be taken by the state. This is the essence of Henry Georgeism and the system of the single tax.

The statement that the value of land is conferred by society is an indisputable fact, but that it should be taken by the state does not by any means follow, for the value of everything is conferred by society. What value would houses or barns or railroads or horses or cattle have without society. A herd of cattle in an island where there were no human beings would have no value, but let society come—let tens of thousands of human beings come to that island—their coming would confer value upon the land without doubt, but it would also make valuable the cattle. If the value thus conferred upon the land should be taken by the state why should not the value of the cattle also be taken by the state? It seems to this writer that there is a fundamental fallacy in all the arguments of the single taxers in not recognizing that all values are alike affected by population and not land alone. If a man living alone in an uninhabited wilderness had a hundred plows which he had made by his own labor, they would have no value. Let society come and it would confer value upon the plows before it would upon the land. Would Mr. Sherman tax the plows for their full value?

THOSE INTERVIEWS.

There has been several sharp criticisms made by correspondents of the interviews given out by Governor Holcomb and Senator Allen after the election of 1896. While the editor of the INDEPENDENT is a radical of the radicals and never had any fear that a populist legislature would be too radical, it is but just to bring to mind the circumstances under which those interviews were given to the public. The following is a review of the case as it then appeared, taken from pages 94 and 95 of Nebraska Re-deemed:

"Immediately upon the result of the election being known arose an outcry from the corporation and monopoly classes east and west that confiscation and ruin to their interests and to property investments in general would mark the course of the new legislative body as soon as assembled. In six successive campaigns the republican press and party managers had sown the state broadcast with assertions that general destruction would ensue from populist possessions of the state government—that no loan would be renewed, but immediate payment demanded of every debtor in the state, followed by foreclosure and ruin. During these same six campaigns republicans of Nebraska had assured the people of the east that populist success in the state meant repudiation of debts, violation of contracts and anarchy. Especially had the minds of investors of the east been filled with direct prophecies of what would befall Nebraska under populist control—confiscation, anarchy, repudiation and ruin—like a chime of gruesome bells, the changes were rung on these words to secure republican campaign funds from frightened investors and maintain the hold of the republican party on the Nebraska state treasury.

"When those who had used these columns for six years as their stock in trade, found their own party swept out of the state house, and in its stead, nearly a full roster of populist state officers, with the legislature populist and free silver by two-thirds majority, they were face to face with a great crisis of their own manufacture. They had told the people of the east that populist victory in this state meant ruin to their investments here unless immediately withdrawn. If the eastern investors took them at their word, forced collections and withdrew loans, the result would be ruin indeed to many of their own associates and business friends. In this emergency, leading republicans in Nebraska fell on their knees before prominent populists, praying for certificates that their own former utterances were only campaign lies. Their two leading newspapers, the Lincoln Journal and the Omaha Bee, begged from Governor Holcomb and Senator Allen interviews to assure the world that the incoming legislature was composed of remarkably level-headed and conservative men, that "nothing radical would be done," and that the "obligations of contracts would be held sacred." To these interviews these republican editors added their own sworn belief that life and property would still be safe in Nebraska notwithstanding the politics of the incoming legislature and their own campaign lies."

WHAT IT MEANS.

In his message, President McKinley says:

"It is estimated upon the basis of present revenue laws that the receipts of the government for the year ending June 30, 1899, will be \$577,874,607 and its expenditures \$68,874,647, resulting in a deficiency of \$112,000,000."

That means a continuation of the war taxes and the issue of at least \$100,000,000 more bonds. How do the American people like the prospect? The Dingley bill and the whole legislation of the republican party we intended to result in an enormous and permanent public debt. That is what the republican farmers of Nebraska voted for and that is what they will get.

THE LOWER CLASSES.

The plutocratic press is always and everlastingly referring to "the lower classes," by which it means the poor or those of moderate means. But what would become of this world if it were not for these same lower classes. In the first place, nine-tenths of all charitable work is done by them. The churches and the schools are mainly supported by them. They create all the wealth. They furnish nearly all the soldiers. Nearly all the poets, philosophers, scholars and scientists belong among them. Would it not be a good plan for these writers to turn their machines around the other way and call them the higher classes for a while. Considering their achievements in war, in peace and in learning, it is certainly a class to which it is an honor to belong. Count this writer as one of them anyhow.

TAXING THE FOREIGNER.

The stupidity of the average republican voter passes all understanding. They seem to exist as echoes of whatever the keen minds who are enslaving the world may please to say. A few years ago John Sherman said that the tariff was a tax on the foreigner. In a week every one of the echoes were repeating it from one end of the country to the other. It cannot be said that they believe it, for most of them are too stupid to believe or disbelieve anything. By a parity of reasoning, since we have

become a great exporting nation, the foreigners are taxing us. But it don't seem to work any prosperity for them. Germany with her prohibitory tariffs, taxing all foreigners outside of her borders, is in the throws of a financial panic, her people living on dog and horse meat, the bank rate raised to six per cent, the gold standard rampant, the emperor rushing home to try to save society from complete collapse and a general upheaval, don't seem to prove that the scheme to tax foreigners by means of protective tariffs pays.

HIGHWAY ROBBERS.

Highway robbers is the proper title by which to designate the railroad magnates who run the political machine in this state. They have captured the highways of the state and systematically rob every man who travels over them or ships goods on their trains. A farmer the other night was relating how he bought a separator and steam engine in Massillon, Ohio, and shipped it to Sarpy county, not sixty miles from Omaha. The freight from Massillon to Council Bluffs was \$48.00, but from Council Bluffs out to his farm, about one-twelfth of the distance to Massillon the freight was more than twice as much. The freight on a carload of salt from Chicago to Norfolk is \$80.00. But the freight on a carload of salt from Chicago to Omaha is only \$20.00. That is the way with everything else. Local freight rates in Nebraska are more than twice as high as they are over in Iowa. In the case of the shipment of salt to Norfolk, the rate is almost twelve times as high.

The pop secretaries of the board of transportation have not made any report on this state of affairs up to this writing. Bye and bye we will breed a man in Nebraska who will have courage enough to tackle a highway robber. It takes a good deal more courage than to fight the Spanish.

CUBAN GARRISONS.

A statement made by Gen. Miles, which has just come to hand shows that he takes exactly the same position in regard to sending troops to Cuba to do garrison duty that the INDEPENDENT has at all times taken. General Miles says:

Cuba is infected with disease germs accumulated during centuries and has been a plague spot the last 100 years.

For this reason measures were recommended at the outset to safeguard our army, especially in advocating the use of a large native force.

True, the heated, rainy and sickly season was just ahead when those recommendations were made; six months hence the danger season will begin again.

According to the present outlook, we are to maintain in tropical countries the largest colonial army composed of home troops of any nation in the world.

There is no reason why thousands of our young men should be sent to Cuba. It is done after the most positive protest made by the major general commanding the army. There should be an universal protest sent up against it by every state in the union. Let these imperialists who are so fond of following British precedents follow them in this instance. England garrisons the lands of all her alien subjects with native troops. Why should not the United States do the same?

SAVINGS BANKS.

Mark Hanna rounded up the depositors in the savings banks in fine style during the last presidential campaign. In one instance a lot of directors of these banks got together and voted to give \$25,000 to Hanna's corruption fund. The depositors are just finding out that they were deceived. The rate of interest which the depositors have been receiving time out of mind has been cut down all over the country and an especially heavy cut has been made in New York and Philadelphia. The savings banks depositors in New York City alone will receive \$2,000,000 less on their deposits next year than they did last. That is paying pretty dear for the whistle. Any set of men who had no more sense than to put their trust in Mark Hanna and boodle deserve to be skinned. Bimetallicists told them what would happen—explained to them just how the appreciating dollar would work their ruin—but they would not listen. They preferred to put their trust in Mark Hanna.

If General Greene remains in the army as military governor of Havana and at the same time as president of the Barber asphalt company secures the paving of a lot of streets with the material that his company furnishes, it will only be in line with a great many other things that has been done under the Algerian system that has been in vogue at Washington.

One of the gold bug Washington correspondents pokes fun at the Chinese because they depend upon making prayers and burning incense to the dragons in order to propitiate them so that they will prevent the frequent overflows of the great yellow river that almost annually destroys so many lives. He thinks that instead of prayers and incense, modern science ought to be invoked. But this faith of the Chinese that natural laws can be evaded is not a whit more ridiculous than the Coory in which this correspondent believes, namely, that we can have high prices and dear money at one and the same time, or his denial of the quantity theory of money.

POLITICAL COURTS.

Now that there is no election in sight the courts have concluded to try some of the cases long on docket which it was thought that by holding them back, might in some way be a benefit to the republican party. The first to be decided was the famous Home of the Friendless children that was made to play such an important part in the campaign. It seems that the greed for office holding is as prominent among the republican women as among the men, for they were willing to starve a few helpless old women and children for a whole year in the vain hope that they might be able to hold on to a few offices and they traveled over the state exhibiting the half clothed children for the purpose of arousing a sympathy that would enable them to keep in office. The case was kept back until after the election and then a republican judge was forced to say to these women office seekers that there was not a color of law in the claim that they were making. The whole performance was the most disgraceful thing that has occurred in politics for many years.

Following on that comes the overturning of the disgraceful decision in Omaha that relieved Bartley's bondsmen of all liability. Next was the case against that national bank at Omaha that transferred \$201,000 of money belonging to the state of to Bartley's private account without a shadow of law to cover the transaction is set for trial. The attorney-general who has striven in vain to bring these cases to trial, now that politics is out of the way, hopes to soon clear the dockets of all of the old republican thief cases.

CITY OWNERSHIP.

Mayor Jones of Toledo, Ohio, was at the national conference held in Indianapolis a few days ago which was called in the interest of good city government and got up and fought the whole outfit. Among the things he told them was the following:

"I am unable to see why it is not just as reasonable to undertake to make a plan for providing individuals or corporations with franchises to build and take care of the city streets and bridges, letting them collect their pay the old fashioned method of the toll gate, as to grant franchises to people to furnish us with light. Plenty of individuals and corporations can be found who will agree to furnish this or any other social service cheaper than the city can do it through municipal ownership. They will agree to police our cities; they will agree to take care of our fires; they will agree to carry on our schools; to take care of our poor as they used to do in the days gone by and proclaim that they can save money for the tax payer. I am positive that our municipal program should speak in no uncertain tone on this subject. There is no ground for compromise. The principle for private ownership of public utilities is wrong, and no amount of patching, legislative or otherwise, can make it right."

A gentleman at Scotts, Nebraska, asks the INDEPENDENT to "please publish the nations that own their own railroads, and give all the particulars." Every civilized nation on earth either absolutely controls or owns their railroad systems in whole or in part except the United States of America. We come trailing in the rear of the procession along with China. Even Japan owns her railroads. While England does not own her railroads, they are under the absolute control of a department of the government. Every other civilized nation also makes the telegraphs and telephones a part of the postoffice system, either in whole or in part. The corporations own this country, and run its railroads and telegraph systems. The only other parallel to it in the whole world is the Empire of China. The superstition exhibited by the republican worship of the "intrinsic value" of gold is about on a level with the Chinese worship of the dragon.

Labor Commissioner S. J. Kent has just issued a very valuable industrial map of the state of Nebraska. The products of each county is printed on the face of the map in the space for the county. The surplus products of the state for the year 1897 is \$140,772,494.42. The Iowa state crop service published this week puts the whole production of that state at \$225,000,000. If these two sets of figures are correct, and there is no reason to doubt them, the people of Nebraska produce much more wealth per capita than do the people of Iowa. Nebraska is not only the most intelligent state in the union, but the most productive. Nebraska stands up for herself. She don't need any body to stand up for her. Nebraska is a pop state.

Was Never Well

But Hood's Sarsaparilla Has Given Her Permanent Health.

"I was a pale, puny, sickly woman, weighing less than 90 pounds. I was never well. I had female troubles and a bad throat trouble. I came across an advertisement of Hood's Sarsaparilla and had faith in the medicine at once. I began taking it and soon felt better. I kept on until I was cured. I now weigh 100 pounds, and never have any sickness. Hood's Sarsaparilla will not cure. My blood is pure, complexion good and free from eruptions." MRS. LUNA FARNUM, Box 118, Hillsboro, Rhode Island.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—It cures the One True Blood Purifier. Hood's Pills are also good.