

# The Nebraska Independent.

The Wealth Makers and Lincoln Independent Consolidated.

VOL. X.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1899.

NO. 38.

## THE FILIPPINO'S SIDE

The Independent Gives Their Representative a Chance to Tell Their Side.

## THEY WANT INDEPENDENCE

They are Willing to Sacrifice Anything if They Can Only Obtain It.

Agoncillo's Story.

The Independent is not a one-sided newspaper. It lets all parties, even the socialists, have their say. It now proposes to let the Filipinos tell their side of the case. Agoncillo, their representative, is in Washington. The other day he gave to the New Voice the following interview:

General Agoncillo said: "It seems very strange to me, especially after reading something of the history of your people, that the United States should desire to hold away over an unwilling people, in a land where its flag is unknown, and where its representatives are looked upon as foreigners. It is very well to say, 'We can govern you much better than you can govern yourselves.' But this I am forced to deny. The best system of government in the world will fail utterly if forced upon a country against its consent. The wisest laws and fairest decrees under such circumstances will be looked upon with distrust and hate. I am a Filipino; I understand their prejudices, their possibilities, their limitations, their virtues and their talents, their strength and their weakness."

"General Aguinaldo and his cabinet are in touch with, and have the absolute confidence of the millions of the Filipinos whom they represent. It is quite true that we cannot claim for ourselves that superior ability of self-government which comes through long experience; but, for the reasons enumerated, we are confident that we will not make of it a dire failure. Nothing is more essential to successful government than the confidence and willing support of the people who are to be governed. This we, General Aguinaldo and his advisers, have, and it is an essential which the United States can never possess if your administration forces upon us military rule, and denies to us the boon for which we have so long fought—Independence. That independence we want, as do the Cubans. It will not answer to say that it is good for the United States, but is not good for us, because we cannot discover sound logic in that kind of argument."

"To Admiral Dewey and the American forces who gave us such signal encouragement and assistance, we are deeply grateful; and in appreciation of the services rendered, we would gladly accord to the United States every possible political, social, and commercial privilege. The monopoly of the business of the Philippines might easily have belonged to the United States, the confidence and ultimate control of our people might, in the beginning, have been easily won; but your military forces, acting, I presume, under instructions from higher authorities in Washington, went to work in a very unwise and undiplomatic way. We, the insurgents, were never considered or called into consultation. We were systematically ignored and pushed to the rear. Your administration from first to last has never been frank and open with us. And considering the fact that our forces invest the entire Philippine group; that we had Manila, the capital, so completely surrounded that, when the Spanish commander was notified by Admiral Dewey to remove non-combatants to a place of safety, he was compelled to reply that there was no such place, as Manila was completely hemmed in by the insurgents; that we had been victorious in nearly every engagement with the Spanish forces; that we today hold over 13,000 Spanish prisoners, 11,000 of whom are soldiers captured in arms, including two generals and 400 officers of the regular army, it seems to me that any fair-minded man would be willing to admit that we, the Filipinos, are entitled to a little political consideration. I am very loth to stir up dissensions, or to indulge in recriminations against a people whom we desire to be on the most friendly terms; but some of your officials have simply lied to and deceived us. But that does not matter. The question at issue is, Shall we be permitted to govern ourselves under the friendly direction of the United States, to be independent under the protection of the great naval arm of your country in the Pacific, in exchange for the vast military and commercial privileges of which we are more than willing to extend a monopoly; or do you propose, by force of arms, to compel us to yield our necks to the gubernatorial yoke which is at present most unwise? It does not matter whether your rule is best for us or not, we don't want it; and if fight we must to oppose it, fight we will, much as we would lament such a calamity."

"We are not deluding ourselves with a hope that we can whip the combined armies which the United States may see fit to send against us; but my knowledge of the temper of the people and the topography of the

country in which you would be compelled to fight us, justifies me in saying that, no matter what it may be for us, it will be for the United States the most calamitous and expensive war in which she has ever engaged. If it cost her \$450,000,000 to whip Spain, it will cost you ten times that amount to crush us. If it cost you 450 lives to take Santiago de Cuba, it will cost you 45,000 or more to take the Philippines."

"You offer Spain \$20,000,000 for her sovereignty in our islands; I think she will get the better of the bargain. Her sovereignty was alone the sovereignty of the seas. Admiral Dewey secured that when he destroyed the Spanish fleet. That once gone, we, the Filipinos, could have disposed of Spain's sovereignty on land for a good deal less than \$20,000,000. You did not see fit to permit this, and now claim that, with the promised \$20,000,000 to Spain, you have bought us and our country, that which was not Spain's to sell, and which she cannot deliver. You have established a military sovereignty in Manila, and in your proclamation to us you do not even hint that the one thing which we want more than anything else, the great and sacred privilege for which we have so long suffered, fought and sacrificed—Independence—may ever be accorded to us. It does not matter whether independence is good for us or not—we want it; under the protection of the United States, if possible; without it, if we must."

"Up to the present time, you have denied us the privilege of founding a republic of the Philippines, nor have you consented to even debate with us the question of the future of the islands along those lines. It seems to be a case of: we, the United States, are the great and only; and you, the Filipinos, are not to be it at all. We think that we hold the key to the situation, which lies in the climate and topography of the country. It is true you can, from the sea, bombard Manila or Iloilo and drive us from the coast cities; but I hardly think that they would prove desirable sites for American colonization while the insurgents remained near the suburbs. You could, of course, drive us back into the country, into the woods and mountains; but it would be costly invasion into a section where we could fight and thrive, but where your soldiers could not stay and live, and the retreat of your colony to the coast would leave a long line of lonely American garrisons."

"We have over 30,000 native soldiers, armed with the Mauser rifles and many million rounds of ammunition. The climate is always our great ally. The soldiers of the United States would be fighting in a strange country for conquest; we would be battling at home for independence. Yet, in spite of it all, you can in time, perhaps, crush or annihilate us; but is it worth the cost? You would be making war upon the comparatively weak; you would be trying by force to subdue a would-be friendly people to your unwelcome rule. You have aided us against a common foe, but you have never owned or before claimed sovereignty over us. You came to our assistance, not because you pitied our condition, but because you wanted to get at the enemy's fleet. Had you not been at war with Spain over a matter foreign to us, we might have perished before you would have sent a fleet across the ocean to help us throw off the yoke of oppression."

"Incidentally, you have rendered us a service which we do not underestimate, and, in return, we are willing to surrender to you everything but our liberty and independence. It is very dear to you in America; why not to us in the Pacific? With your industry, your perseverance, and your sense of justice, which I hope will, in the end, prevail, you might in time gain every point you wish; but it will come much easier through diplomacy and fairness, than through force or fighting."

"We, the Filipinos, are united in our desire for independence; surely to Americans this should not seem so great a crime. We have a determined people led by able and patriotic men, who know how to use to advantage the material at hand. General Aguinaldo, although but twenty-nine years of age, is the chosen representative of nine-tenths of the inhabitants of the archipelago. In two revolutions against the rule of Spain he has proven himself an excellent organizer and a skilful military commander. He won the esteem and confidence of the Filipinos when holding the position of mayor in one of the smaller cities, under Spanish control, by refusing to enforce decrees which emanated from the captain general at Manila, and which were so manifestly unjust and illegal that even the Spaniards smiled in contempt as they read them. He immediately resigned his position and fled a protest against the proposed outrages, which action caused his arrest and banishment from the country. It gained for him, however, the love and gratitude of the Filipinos, and they lost no time in getting him back again, where he soon became the recognized leader of a systematic revolt against the authority of Spain in the islands."

"Surrounding himself with able counselors, he formed a cabinet, and proceeded to lay the foundations of a republic, toward which form of government every liberty loving people naturally leans. I was at that time in Hong Kong, China, looking up the international possibilities of the situation. General Aguinaldo wrote and argued upon me the necessity of getting rifles and cartridges to him at once. I was fortunate in procuring some seven thousand first class modern magazine guns, and a large amount

of ammunition; but when I reached the insurgent army with them, I found that he had succeeded, by capture and purchase, in securing about 23,000 rifles, as well as large quantities of war material, from the Spanish themselves."

"General Aguinaldo is not an adventurer, as is frequently stated by his enemies, but is simply a man of the people and a patriot. His parents were of good, but not of a great family, which has been true of many noted men. Although enjoying only two years of schooling, he is remarkably well informed upon affairs of the world at large. His wife and little two-year-old boy are devoted to him, and follow his fortunes in person, not only in exile, but on to the field of battle as well."

"General Aguinaldo is our idol, our Washington. So far he has never failed us, and to him and his associates whom we have elected, we are looking to be led through the troublesome times which confront us at the present moment. It is the earnest prayer of every Filipino, and should be that of every American, that wise councils may prevail, and that bloodshed may be averted."

"To accomplish this end, we are willing to sacrifice almost everything but the one sacred principle for which we have so long fought—absolute liberty and political independence."

## EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS.

Editor Independent:

In your issue of the 19th a remarkable argument is set up by your friend August Storms. I was constrained to make a reply to the socialist, but on looking up the paper containing the article my poor eyes dropped down on your reply, which is so full and complete that nothing more need be said. In regard to Brother Gibson, he is surely a good man. I had much correspondence with him. I could not agree at all with his socialist notions. He had imbibed a theory introduced by a non-thrift class years ago. I often told him that he was about three thousand years behind the times, but he was honest, and if all men were as good as he then co-operation might be a success. But one stubborn fact that cannot be overcome—men are selfish by nature. This selfishness overrides and will break down any socialist experiment that ever was or ever will be set up that does not harmonize with such a nature. Competition is in the nature of the state, the church, the school, and even socialism itself cannot eliminate it. It seems to me that this "all-things-common" theory was taught by Christ and, to a very small extent, practiced by the early church, but it being contrary to nature it could not long prevail, and the church has grown a long way ahead of those who followed for the leaves and chaff."

In 1850 I was a farm hand (a good one), worked in Ohio for \$14 per month, 16 hours per day, milked ten cows twice a day, chopped, ploughed, hoes, mowed with a scythe, did more work in one day than I ever could get two men to do for me, but I had \$84 at the end of six months and I have never had less since. Let me assure Mr. Storms that with monopolies destroyed, with rare exceptions, there will always be work for those who are disposed to labor without hindering the machinery. Inventions, machinery and discoveries in science all add to the sum of that which is to be learned, and widens the field in which there is work to be done. L. G. Todd.

## THE REASON WHY

That any other course should be even mooted, not to say seriously considered, than that of giving the blessings of liberty to the people rescued from the tyranny of Spain, is due to the fact that our government in the election of 1896 fell to the money changers, trusts, and monopolies of our own country, who, like their British allies, considered only the exploitation of their fellow-men either at home or abroad. The classes that controlled alike the policy of the Cleveland and the McKinley administrations made the United States government participants in the crimes of Spain in the barbarities practiced upon the poor Cubans are now in favor of declaring the Declaration of Independence to be a lie and forcing the United States to adopt an imperial policy and set up military governments over the people we have just rescued from the yoke of Spain. These classes care more for the value of Spanish bonds than for human life in Cuba.—Silver Knight.

## SUBSIDISED NEWSPAPERS

Wendell Phillips used to say that "we do not live under a government of law, but of public opinion." The newspaper is the great engine of public opinion. When the newspaper is subsidized and corrupted the fountains of public intelligence are poisoned. The millions of honest toilers have not the time, nor the means at their disposal, to investigate independently for themselves the great questions that are thrust across the pathway of the voters of the nation. They must content themselves to purchase their information, in a large degree, through the medium of the newspaper. The money power and monopolies realize this fact and through the patronage they deal out, either in the form of printing contracts awarded to the owners of the newspapers, or liberally paid for space in their editorial columns, they subsidize and control the

utterances of a large portion of the so-called independent press. The great city daily papers are nearly all in the service of the monopolies and banks. The owners of many of them are large borrowers at the banks and are forced to serve them as the price of bank accommodation. Others are controlled by the advertising patronage of the banks, trust companies and corporations, and but few have the temerity to defy the scheming of the banks and the boycott they are able to bring to bear upon them."

Readers, we appeal to you as men who are yet free to exercise the freeman's right, to patronize the papers that are on your side, and to withhold your patronage from the papers that are in the service of the enemy. Without your patronage the press of the enemy is powerless. Beware of newspapers that are furnished to you at a price below the cost of publishing them."

## SENATORIAL CONTESTS.

In Pennsylvania the fight still goes on and there is nothing to indicate that Quay will not finally win out. Several of the republicans who are fighting him are just as big scoundrels as he is. The minority of honest republicans in the legislature is exceedingly small.

The Wisconsin legislature has elected Quarles, a corporation gold bug attorney.

In California the fight still goes on, getting more bitter every day. Charges of corruption are being constantly made on all sides. The speaker was forced to resign and another was elected. The charge against him was that he furnished campaign funds to help Jesse Grant. It is a very disreputable affair all around.

Washington and Utah are voting away very much after the fashion of the times each having half a score of candidates in the field and their supporters swearing that they are going to stand by their favorites to the end. In Montana, Clark, a free silver democrat was elected by the help of republican votes.

In Nebraska one ballot is taken each day with no material change in the vote except Hayward has fallen off nine votes from the highest number that he reached and Thompson gained one on the last ballot, which was as follows: Allen 58, Hayward 35, Webster 10, Thompson 8, Field 4, Reese 3 and Adams, Cornish, Lamberton and Van Dusen each 1.

In Delaware the millionaires and the gas magnates are still fighting without any material change in the vote.

## DANGER AHEAD

The money power was disappointed at the outcome of the democratic national convention in 1896. They were taken by surprise. They will not be so taken again. They will understand that they cannot win against the American people in a battle at the polls. They also understand that with political lines fairly and honestly drawn, the success of one party to mean their triumph, and the success of the other party to mean the triumph of the people, that their cause is lost. They do not intend to expose themselves to the certainty of defeat by permitting the line drawn in 1896 to be maintained. They are determined to gain control of the democratic national convention in 1900, cost what it may.—Silver Knight.

## RAILROAD DEVILTRY.

The inter-state commerce commission had the state to say about the management and discriminations of the great railroad systems in the United States. It is beginning to dawn upon the minds of all men that there is no way to control these corporations. If they keep on as they have in the past, and they most certainly will, finally the whole country will unanimously demand that the populist plan be adopted and the railroads owned and operated by the government. The commission says:

"The railroad situation has become intolerable both from the standpoint of the public and the carriers. Tariffs are disregarded, discriminations constantly occur, the price at which transportation can be obtained is fluctuating and uncertain. Railroad managers are distrustful of each other, and shippers all the while in doubt as to the rates secured by their competitors. The volume of traffic is so unusual as to frequently exceed the capacity of equipment, yet the cost of tonnage seems never relaxed. Numerous sums are spent in purchasing business and secret rates are accorded far below the standard of published charges. The general public gets little benefit from these reductions, for commissions are mainly confined to the heavier shippers. All this augments the advantages of large capital and tends to the injury and oft to the ruin of smaller dealers. There are not only matters of the gravest consequence to the business welfare of the country, but they concern in no less degree the higher interests of public morality."

Well Put.

Smith—"Every time my wife wants a bonnet it affects her." Jones—"Goes to her head, I suppose."—Comic Outlook.

## KANSAS AND NEBRASKA

Always Joined Together in the Struggle for Human Rights and Progress.

## KANSAS RAILWAY PROBLEM

Enactment of a New Law to Control the Roads by Special Session.

The Outlook there and in Nebraska.

Kansas and Nebraska were joined together forty years ago in the great free soil conflict for freedom in America. They were joined together again in the great alliance uprising—the most wonderful people's movement of the century just closing. They seem permanently joined together in the struggle now going on between the people and the corporations. Some features of the conflict in Kansas will be of special interest to the people of this state.

In Kansas as in Nebraska the conflict between the people and the railway corporations began twenty years ago. There are here the causes that led to the conflict were the intolerable political bossism of railway managers, the flagrant favoritism in rates that an irresponsible power had grown up in their midst which not only ruled their politics but robbed whom and when it would without recourse.

The first efforts of the people in Kansas as in Nebraska were met by political managers of the ruling party with attempts to pacify the people and at the same time please the corporations. Bills intended to secure relief to the producers were sidetracked in the legislature by shrewd parliamentary practice, while bogus bills were enacted designed simply for delay. In 1883 a maximum rate bill passed the lower house of the Kansas legislature. The senate refused to pass the same and finally as a compromise measure the act creating the Kansas board of railway commissioners became a law March 6, 1883.

The advent of the board of railway commissioners was followed by the same delays and dissatisfactions as in this state. In its first annual report (1883) the Kansas board refers to the popular sentiment in the following words:

"Long prior to the passage of the law creating a board of railway commissioners, and at the time the present commission entered upon their duties, a strong impression prevailed in the public mind that the rates charged for the transportation of freight over the different lines in the state, were too high and ought to be reduced. The maximum rate bill introduced into and passed by the house of representatives which, however, finally gave place to the act which left the matter of rates to be dealt with by the commissioners, created considerable disappointment and intensified the discontent which already prevailed among a large class of the people. Up to that time no information existed outside of railroad offices showing the financial condition of the various railroads operating in Kansas, their doings in transportation, and the general system of tariffs prevailing upon them. This information existed in voluminous forms upon numerous records and was not readily accessible to the board. Immediately upon their organization the board proceeded to gather together the tariffs of the different lines and to reduce them to such forms as would render them convenient for study and for use. This, in connection with the other work of the board, required time to accomplish. Other information which the board deemed necessary from time to time to an intelligent understanding of their work was called for, to which the general managers responded as rapidly as seemed to be practicable. In the meantime much impatience manifested itself at what was regarded as the slow movements of the board. The board could not move in the matter of rate reductions, except upon complaints coming from the source indicated; and in the face of the fact that the railroad managers maintained that their rates were reasonable it became necessary when complaints were filed to proceed upon evidence quite complete and exhaustive."

Through the succeeding reports of the Kansas railway commissioners runs the same thread of popular impatience, yet it would appear from a careful examination of those reports that really more had been actually accomplished by the Kansas board than that of Nebraska. Scores of cases of complaint against the roads were decided and in four-fifths of them the decision was against the roads and in nearly all of these the roads complied with the decision of the board.

The main demand of the people for a general reduction of rates was never reached in Kansas. The railroads shrewdly managed to control one branch or the other of the legislature and the board of railway commissioners never seriously attempted such action.

When the great victory of 1896 gave Kansas for the first time in her history a populist legislature in both

branches and a full equipment of populist state officials.

Then a large part of the people of Kansas looked confidently forward to the enactment of a maximum rate law. Difference of opinion quickly developed in the populist ranks as to the features of the bill that ought to pass. As is always the case there were the extreme radicals and the ultra conservatives and when a bill was finally passed and sent to Governor Leedy it was only to receive his veto together with a message outlining his idea of a bill that would meet his approval.

Whatever justice there may have been in Governor Leedy's position its effect was without doubt disastrous on the populist party in Kansas. The voters were discouraged at the outcome of long years of agitation and struggle. They would not believe that the officers they had chosen had made a sincere effort to realize all the relief possible for the people and in spite of the valuable reforms and economy accomplished by the populist government it was defeated by the stay-at-home vote for re-election.

There was one remaining chance for the populist administration after the election returns came in. That was to use the remaining days they remained in power to pass a new railroad bill giving the people all the relief that was possible under the decisions of the courts and leave the administration of the new law to the incoming republican administration. The legislature met in special session and, in spite of the protests and frantic efforts of the republican members to prevent action passed the new railroad law and a series of corporation tax bills which were signed by Governor Leedy and are now the law of Kansas until they are set aside by some court of last resort.

The Kansas railroad law has already been noticed briefly in the columns of the Independent, but the features in which it differs from the present Nebraska law have not been clearly pointed out, which it is a part of the mission of this article to do.

The new Kansas law provides for what it calls a "court of visitation," consisting of three judges. Any elector or of Kansas who is not an officer, employee or stockholder or bondholder in a railroad is eligible to membership of said court. The members of the court of visitation shall be elected at the general election in 1900 for a four years' term. Until that time the members of such court shall be appointed by the governor. The court of visitation is provided with a clerk and stenographer, appointed by the judges of the court. There is also provided a state solicitor, who shall be elected in 1900 for a four year term, but serve by appointment from the governor until that time.

The powers of the court of visitation are defined in section 3 of the act which is here given in full, as follows:

Sec. 3. The court of visitation shall have power and jurisdiction throughout the state:

1. To try and determine all questions as to what are reasonable freight rates, switching and demurrage charges and other charges connected with the transportation of property between points in this state.
2. To apportion charges between connecting roads, and determine all questions relating to charges for use of cars and equipments; and to regulate the charges for part car loads and mixed car load lots of freight including live stock.
3. To classify freight.
4. To apportion transportation charges among connecting carriers.
5. To require the construction and maintenance of depots, switches, side tracks, stock yards, cars and other facilities for the public convenience.
6. To compel reasonable and impartial train and car service for all patrons of the railroad.
7. To regulate crossings and intersections of railroads and regulate the operation of trains over them.
8. To prescribe rules concerning the movements of trains, to secure the safety of employees and the public.
9. To require the use of improved appliances and methods, to avoid accidents and injuries to persons.
10. To restrict railroad corporation to operations within their charter powers, prevent the oppressive exercise thereof, and compel the performance of all duties required of railroads by law.

11. To summon juries, as a court of equity, in any case or matter before it; such juries to be selected as may be directed by rule. Jurors to possess the qualifications, except as to locality, required by law for jurors in the district courts.

12. Such other and further powers as are given by this act or may be conferred by law.

The sections following the eighth section provide a code of procedure for the trial of cases in the court of visitation. In most respects the code is similar to that passed by the legislature of 1897 for proceeding before the Nebraska board. It has, however, several radical differences. Probably the most important of these is the one that provides that on thirty days refusal of any road to obey an order of the court of visitation, the court may appoint a receiver and take possession of the property and administer it until the owners shall give bond for their compliance with the order.

Another important and interesting section of the Kansas law reads as follows:

Section 19. No judge of said court, nor the clerk thereof, nor the state solicitor shall ask, receive, or accept for himself or any other person, free transportation over any railroad in this state, or receive or accept, for himself or (Continued on Eighth Page.)