

Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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Altgeld has started a weekly paper in Chicago called the Municipal Ownership Bulletin. It already has 60,000 circulation.

Our household economist has a very valuable article on the care of lamps in this issue. Every housekeeper should read it.

It is a benefit to the people of this country to annex Porto Rico and the Sandwich Islands so that we may have free trade with them, why wouldn't free trade be a benefit without annexation? That is something that no pop can find out.

There should be a reapportionment in Nebraska, but this republican apportionment based on the census of 1890 would do practically no good, as a glance at the districts provided in the bill will show. It is simply a fraud.

There is a democratic editor in this state that week after week transfers editorials from the columns of the INDEPENDENT to his own columns without any credit whatever. It is pleasing to see good sound economies published in a dyed-in-the-wool democratic journal. When he advances a little further in pop literature he will learn to give credit.

The Journal says that "no little American believes that the people can be trusted for a moment out of his sight." No Swell Head American believes that the people can be trusted while they are in sight, so they want a big standing army to "haud the wretches to order" as Bobby Burns would say. If the people can be trusted what is the use of a standing army of 100,000 at a cost of \$1,000 annually for each soldier?

Matter for the INDEPENDENT was held back this week trying to so sift out the lies in the press dispatches that the truth might be approximately reached. The result was that some plated matter was used on the inside. Upon examination it was found to be matter that first appeared in the INDEPENDENT and had been fixed over and credited by the plate house to another paper. The readers of this paper will have the pleasure of reading it a second time, although not in as good shape as when it first appeared.

Governor Pingree asks: "Shall we be satisfied with the statement of economists and courts that there is no remedy for this state of things?" No economist ever said there was no remedy for this state of things. They all foretold this state of things and they have been pointing out the remedy year after year and Governor Pingree has never paid the slightest attention to them. If he will read Wolowski's prophecy he will be ashamed that he ever asked such a question. As for the courts, they have always been the tools of plutocracy in every age of the world.

IT IS NOT POLITICS.

The secretary of the treasury says in his last report that: "The public debt shows that at the close of business January 31, 1899, the debt, less cash in the treasury amounted to \$1,152,624,750 an increase for the month of \$23,448,46." It will be seen that while we are increasing the army and navy and setting up stable governments for the Latin and Malay races, we are increasing our national debt at the rate of more than three quarters of a million a day, notwithstanding that we are paying heavier taxes than ever before. Have the American people gone mad with the desire of conquest? This business is beyond the sphere of party politics. It is a question of patriotism. Shall this nation endure?

If the public had listened to the teachings of populism no such difficulties would now confront us. Senator Allen voiced the sentiments of the party when he introduced, long before the beginning of the war, a resolution to recognize the Cuban republic, and stop the favoritism shown to Spain. With equal rights granted to them, the Cubans should have been left to fight out their own salvation. If that had been done, we would now be free from all the entanglements that environ us on every hand. Increasing public debt, increasing armies and navies, increasing pension rolls and a prospect of future difficulties so great that the cheek of the bravest may well grow pale in contemplation of them. That is the prospect before us.

SOBER SECOND THOUGHT.

A good deal has been said in the newspapers about "the sober second thought of the American people." It is certainly true that that kind of thought should be manifesting itself if we are to save any of the things that we hold dear. The statement of the treasury department just issued shows that the deficit for the month of January was \$9,347,840. The deficit for the last seven months, notwithstanding the war taxes imposed at the last session of congress, amounts to \$92,867,982. The army bill which has just passed the house increasing the regular army to 100,000 will swell our expenditures, according to the most conservative estimate, not less than \$75,000,000 annually. That will make our annual deficit, under the present rate of taxation, \$182,867,982, and the result must be an annual increase of the issue of bonds of nearly \$200,000,000—or a very great increase in taxation. The war with Spain and the invasion of the Philippine Islands will add at least \$15,000,000 annually to the pension roll, which is already swelled to enormous proportions, being about \$145,000,000 annually. If that matter is taken into consideration it will be seen that the annual deficit under the present rate of taxation will be more than \$200,000,000.

Shall we go on indefinitely issuing more bonds and add continually to the untaxed millionaires, for bonds are not taxable, and under the supreme court decision the income of bondholders can not be taxed, or shall we double our present heavy national taxation? If there is any "sober" thought to be indulged in by the American people, it seems that the time has arrived for it to show itself upon public affairs.

Never since the foundations of this government were laid has its existence been so threatened as it is now. The dark days of 1861 were not so dark to those who indulge in "sober second thoughts" as are the present. An attempt to double present taxation for the support of increased armies and navies and the conquest of the islands of the sea, will produce a revolt in every section of the country, especially if the great corporations like the telegraph monopoly and the express companies are to be exempted as they are now. The issue of bonds would probably carry the matter along without a revolt for a few years, but the day of reckoning would be sure to come at last, it may be in bloodshed and ruin.

The very same processes are being put in force here that produced the French revolution. Enormous taxation of the common people and the exemption of the rich. The bond-holders have been made exempt by the supreme court income decision. The corporations are exempt by the enactments of congress and the whole cost of the support of the armies, navies and the expenses of conquest is put upon the shoulders of the poor and the middle class, under which process there will soon be no middle class.

Upon what meat have our Caesars fed that they have grown so reckless? Will the American people take the sober second thought before it is everlastingly too late?

PRACTICAL POLITICS.

The real governing power in every country on earth is the force of public opinion. It follows that the power that moulds and forms public opinion is the real power. More and more every year public opinion is moulded and formed by the newspaper press and the magazines. The editorial of the newspaper has lost the influence it had in the days of Horace Greeley, but what has been lost there has been more than regained in the news columns. The people rely upon the news columns for the facts upon which they form their opinions. When every fact is distorted and twisted to suit the views, and propagate the idea of the capitalistic class, when thousands of things are published as well ascertained facts, which are not facts at all but skillfully concocted falsehoods published for the express purpose of deceiving the people and causing them to form and hold wrong opinions, it is not to be wondered at that men go to the polls and vote against their own interests by the thousands.

It is probable that a very large majority of the farmers and wage earners who have voted for the gold standard, if they knew only the facts that are a matter of public record, things that are to be found in public documents, and about which there can be no doubt at all—if they knew even that much, they would instantly reverse their action at the polls. They are kept in ignorance of these things by a well formed conspiracy that has direct control of nearly all the great dailies and popular magazines and indirectly of all daily papers through their forced reliance upon it for the news. The Associated Press is the greatest power wielded by plutocracy.

Without the aid of this agency in the formation of public opinion, plutocracy could not control this government for a single year. While the special correspondents of the goldbug press have been able to do much harm, it has been but a small matter to the influence exercised by the Associated Press in the formation of wrong public opinion, for it goes into every daily paper in the United States every day in the year with its falsehoods and misrepresentations, and also into the weeklies, for

they are as dependent upon it for news as are the dailies. The Farmers Alliance was quick to see the power of this concern and by great sacrifices they established a weekly press. Through the aid of a few farmers and the bimetallic league, a newspaper man was kept in Washington for two years, furnishing the news to a great many weeklies but more fully to one, from which the others copied. Since that, the reform papers have been entirely dependent upon the Associated Press, with what little of the truth they can get from occasional correspondents who are men who have no training for the business.

The one great need of the reform forces is a trained newspaper man in Washington—one who knows how to get the news. Such a man to be of much use must know the departments, must know the leading men of all parties and they must know him and have confidence in his integrity. More could be done in this way to form a correct public opinion and influence voters than in any other way. If it is done, the farmers will have to take hold of it and do it. They are the only ones who have done anything practical in politics in the last ten years.

NEWS MANUFACTURERS.

The Associated Press and the special correspondents of the great goldbug dailies are becoming public nuisances. There can be no reliance at all placed upon the printed news that they furnish the public. The matter that has appeared during the last few weeks concerning General Gomez is but a fair sample of their work. At first in great glaring headlines it was announced that General Gomez was sulking in his tent meditating trouble for everybody because he was not invited to be present upon the occasion of the surrender by the Spaniards. It was said in those dispatches that Gomez demanded that he should march at the head of his troops into Havana, all military honors should be paid him and then some days afterward there appeared in the "graveyard" of the daily papers hidden out of sight as much as possible, a modest proclamation signed by General Gomez disclaiming all desire to participate in the ceremonies of evacuation saying that he thought it would be very bad policy for him to do so, as the excitement of the occasion and bad feeling between the Spaniards and Cubans might result in disturbances that would have a bad effect and which should be avoided if possible.

In a day or two after this, these same goldbug papers burst out with the severest denunciations of the general, declaring that he was nothing but a freebooter and mercenary. That he had refused to fight in the first place until he was paid \$10,000 in advance, which money had been collected from the poor Cuban sugar makers and other laborers who had been assessed so much a week to maintain the insurgents.

The next thing that appeared was a story that General Gomez was demanding \$60,000,000 as the price that would induce him to order the disbandment of the Cuban army, that he wanted the money paid to himself, and he would divide it as it suited him among the Cuban colonels, who would keep the main part of what was turned over to them and the privates would get little or nothing.

Now it appears that upon a representative of the president being sent to him, he made no demands whatever, but said that the Cuban army which had fought so bravely and against such great odds for three years ought to be paid so that they could disband and go to their homes. The \$3,000,000 which had been designated, he thought was too small, but he made no other objection. When the disbursement of this money was discussed, he absolutely refused to handle a cent of the money and asked that it be sent to General Brook and disbursed by him through the medium of American and Cuban officers acting in conjunction.

The "news" concerning General Gomez is a fair sample of all the news furnished by the great dailies and the Associated Press. No one can place the least reliance upon it. It is mainly manufactured in the office and sent out in the interest of the corporations, the banks and imperialism. But this is the only source of information that the great mass of the American people have. By the means of it they keep their hold upon the voters. It is the most powerful engine of oppression that the devil ever invented. The reform national committees should make some attempt to furnish the people, at least that part of them who read reform papers, with the news. It is the very best investment that can be made of campaign funds. The editor of the INDEPENDENT has been insisting upon it for the last ten years.

RUSKIN COLONY.

Ruskin colony is a corporation formed on capitalistic lines. It gets more free advertising than any other business enterprise in the United States. Every member of the corporation must pay \$500.00 worth of stock which gives the colony a sound capitalistic basis. It has able managers and is conducting a paying business. None but persons of good character and well formed industrial habits are admitted to its membership. While those workers are in the prime of life, every one of them active producers,

the colony even under ordinary management ought to succeed. But all this is not socialism by any means. Let there be thrust into the colony its per capita share of criminals, old, infirm, shiftless and lazy, that would burden any nation attempting to adopt socialism and the outlook of the colony would be immediately changed. As long as they can pick out the best in the whole country and associate them together under the capitalistic system of the payment of \$500.00 in advance, they have a chance to succeed. The only difference between Ruskin and any other corporation is that all the members share equally in the profits of the concern, regardless of the producing capacity or ability of the members. The man whose labor brings a profit of ten dollars a day gets no more than one who makes fifty cents a day. That is a matter of mutual agreement. But the man who has not \$500.00, and there are many millions of them in this plutocratic ridden country, has no chance at Ruskin.

WALL STREET PROSPERITY.

The boom in stocks last week reminds one of the celebrated South Sea bubble or the way the Dutch got rich speculating in tulips. Here is a railroad for example whose stocks are on the market. The total value of them is say, 10,000,000. Not a mile of additional road is built. No rolling stock or additional equipment is bought. The property is just the same before the rise as afterward. Yet that stock rises on Wall street \$2,000,000 in three days. The country is \$2,000,000 richer say the goldbug economists. Look how we are prospering! Now the fact is that there is not a dollar worth more of wealth in the country than there was before. If there is any difference the Dutch were the most reasonable when they went crazy over the speculation in tulips. If a speculator paid \$10,000 for a new tulip, there was certainly a new flower. There was that much to show, but for the \$2,000,000 rise in stock, there is nothing at all to show. We may be able to prosper on gambling, but if we do, it will be the first time in history that a nation ever did.

TRIALS OF AN EDITOR.

The trials of an editor of a weekly paper who wishes to furnish the truth about current events is indescribable. He searches through unnumbered columns of dispatches in the great dailies, columns of lies, columns of rumors, columns of pure fables and tries to sift out what appears to be the truth. Then he condenses it and prepares it for publication. About the time it gets to the printer's hands, he finds out that it is not the truth at all and all his work goes for nothing. The editor of a weekly paper cannot write an opinion or comment on anything the first part of the week, for he will be sure to find before the week closes that the supposed facts upon which he based his remarks were not facts at all, but were only the opinions or imaginings of some gold bug reporter written for the express purpose of deceiving the public. Universal and unending lying has become the settled policy of those who have the news monopoly. No one can believe anything he sees in the Associated Press dispatches. It may be true but the chances are ten to one that it is not. The usefulness of the public press as a means of information to the people has been almost completely destroyed. If something is not done to stop this universal and everlasting lying in the public press, it will not take a prophet to tell to tell the fate of this nation. There is an old book which says "all liars shall have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone." They say that this book is out of date and has no authority, but that is only another lie.

A WATER TRUST.

The trusts have monopolized about everything on the face of the earth except air and water and now they are after the water. In a public document recently issued it is remarked that the knowledge and skill required to distribute the water is soon acquired, but the working out of social and industrial institutions which will place the rivers which govern the value of every farm they fertilize under some form of public control which will secure their just distribution and prevent their becoming the subject of speculation or corporate monopoly is proving in the western states, as it has in every irrigated land old enough to have a history, to be the enduring and important problem for farmers to solve, and the one on which the reward of their industry and the value of their farms ultimately depend.

The bottom of this monopolization of water is the gold standard as it is of all the others. Let the volume of money be increased until farmers can get the same price they did before silver was demonstrated and a part of the greenbacks burned, and the farmers will be able to go into irrigation enterprises without bonding themselves and their children after them for generations to come.

The Nebraska Mercantile Mutual insurance company had nearly double the business in January 1899 than it had in January 1898. This speaks well for the company. Its membership has become so large, and its business of the very best grade, that it guarantees to the insuring public a rate medium at a reasonable cost, from which to obtain their insurance.

A NEW WAR INAUGERATED

Let the People Make a Protest Against the Sacrifice of Men in Tropical Jungles.

It seems that we are launched upon another war which will be longer and more costly than the one we have had with Spain. The bitterness of it, when we think of our dead and our wounded is, that neither our honor or our interest demanded it. The situation was this: The Filipinos announced that they wanted independence, that they would sacrifice every thing for it, but independence they would have if they must fight to obtain it. The administration refused to announce any policy at all. McKinley would not say whether it was his intention to annex the islands, to hold them under a military government, allow them any sort of self government or intimate in any way what the intentions of this government were in regard to them. Even the wisest statesmen in McKinley's own party could not form an opinion in regard to the intentions of the administration toward the Filipinos. Is it to be wondered at that these people who have for three hundred years suffered all kinds of torture from foreign domination should conclude that they were to be transferred from the domination of one foreign government to another, bought and sold like slaves in the market and then taxed and governed in the same way as of old?

Having come to this conclusion and being determined to fight for independence if they could obtain it in no other way, it was only the part of good generalship on their part to begin the war before reinforcements which they knew were on the way could arrive. Senator McEury in casting his vote for the treaty announced that he had the most positive assurance from the administration that it was the intention of the administration to withdraw from the Philippines as soon as a stable government was established. If McKinley had made a public and official statement of that fact, there would have been no battle in the Philippines and mothers would not now be mourning for their dead all over this land.

The killed according to the latest reports at this writing is forty. Of these four were men of the First Nebraska.

There is no rejoicing over this victory anywhere. There were no flags run out of the windows, no public meetings were held, no bands appeared upon the streets. While all are proud of the noble courage of our brave young soldiers, men's faces do not light up with the joy of victory as they did when our boys were driving the Spaniards out of Cuba. A sadness and gloom seems to pervade the whole community. Even the radical imperialists cannot rejoice. Some men go so far as to express their pity for the insurgents. One man said: "Just think of it. Men lined up fighting for independence with bows and arrows as is told in one of the dispatches and our boys forced to mow them down with Gatling guns and Krag-Gorgeson rifles. There is no glory in that kind of fighting."

There is a long list of wounded. Their friends at home begin to wonder what will happen to them when the sickly, rainy season sets in at Manila. It will be but a few weeks until it will come again.

Then men began to enquire why all this sacrifice of dead and wounded? Why this enormous cost of carrying on a war seven thousand miles from the base of supplies? The imperialists replied: "The Filipinos are unfit for self government. They have begun the fight and now we must conquer them. We cannot now retire with honor until we have subjected them."

The staid substantial citizen asks: "How much honor will there be in reducing a lot Malays, Negritro, and two or three hundred thousand of more civilized people who seems to be their leaders to subjection, who are fighting for independence just as our forefathers fought? There is no doubt that in the end we can whip them. When by the sacrifice of thousands of our young men and at a cost of millions upon millions, which our people must dig in the mines, toil in the sun and work for generations to pay, what service will we have rendered to mankind that will remunerate us or mankind at large for such tremendous sacrifices? Will we have advanced the cause of humanity either here or in the Philippines?" To such questions as these the imperialists make no reply.

Notwithstanding the heavy war taxes that have been imposed, the secretary of the treasury says that there will be a deficit in the revenues for this year of over \$112,000,000. If we are to carry on a war 7,000 miles from our nearest base of supplies, the deficit will be many times more, h. w. is the money to be raised? Will there be a tax gatherer, as Senator Hoar says, standing at the door of every home? Shall we go on issuing bonds and making toiling slaves of the generations to come after us? We inherited from our fathers a glorious and free republic. Shall we leave to our children a republic embroiled in foreign wars, burdened with an enormous pension list, a great standing army, a public debt so large as to make slaves of the toiling millions? Is there honor in that? Will not coming generations curse us instead of honoring us?

What if the Filipinos are incapable of self government. Will the killing of a

few thousand of their best men, for it is they who will do the fighting, make them capable? Will the establishment of a foreign army in their midst have a tendency to inspire their minds with noble thoughts and brighten their intellects? Are men civilized and educated by war?

The treaty of peace has been ratified by just one majority. Bryan's advice should have been taken and the treaty ratified a month ago. A few gold bug democrats who will retire to private life on the 4th of March, opposed this policy and kept it hanging in the senate, which with the refusal of McKinley to announce a policy has resulted in this bloodshed. In the opinion of this writer there will be a general revolt in the United States against imperialism. If not we may prepare for a long and desolating war in the jungles of the tropics, out of which will come neither glory for profit or the American people.

KNOCK THEM OUT.

An act passed under Edward VI provided that any one refusing to work at the prices fixed should be adjudged a vagabond and branded with the letter V, then if he ran away he was to be branded with the letter S and be adjudged a slave for life, and if he still resisted he was to be hung. Workmen who tried to unite were guilty of conspiracy. The capitalist class failed then and they will fail now, notwithstanding the federal judges are making laws very similar to these statutes of Edward VI. The injunction and the black list are of the same character. Just as soon as organized labor learns that the trusts, corporations and combines can be knocked clear out of the box by getting hold of the volume of money out they will go.

News of the Week.

Adison G. Foster, goldbug, was elected United States senator from Washington.

The republicans of the national house of representatives held a caucus the other night and resolved that they would attempt no financial legislation this term, but they appointed a committee of eleven gold bugs to fix up a measure to be ready for the beginning of next term.

That imperialistic lie about General Gomez demanding \$60,000,000 from the United States is in all the weeklies. The weeklies are not to blame however, for they all have to rely upon the Associated Press for their news. How many of them will correct it? If they don't then they will be to blame.

Governor Poyater upon the petition of the discharged soldiers of the Nebraska has asked the autoctories to remove Col. Stotsenberg.

It is said that the great trunk lines running east from Chicago have been constantly reducing the rates on corn and wheat lately. That is the result of opening a port on the gulf and the building of a north and south road from Port Arthur to Kansas City. The result is just what the farmers of Nebraska said it would be.

The Mississippi Valley Democrat is out strong for the government ownership of railroads. It makes the soul of an old pop feel good to see how fast these democrats are learning. Pretty soon, if they keep on at the present rate, they will be more radical than the wild eyed and wooly pops.

Congressman Decker, a democrat, said in the house the other day that if matters ran on the way they have been going, that the lower house would soon be filled with populist. Light is beginning to dawn on the democratic mind.

The Torrens system of land transfer has been put in force in Chicago. If the Nebraska legislature would turn its attention to practical legislation instead of wasting their time over rival republican candidates for the senate, they might earn their salaries.

Miles has a big job on hands. He has the great American beef trust to fight. He keeps on iterating and reiterating his charges. Two of the great dailies seem inclined to publish the facts about the case. From the evidence that has

FACTS ABOUT HEALTH

It is Easy to Keep Well if We Know How—Some of the Conditions Necessary to Perfect Health.

The importance of maintaining good health is easily understood, and it is really a simple matter if we take a correct view of the conditions required. In perfect health the stomach promptly digests food. The blood is employed to carry nourishment to the organs, nerves, muscles and tissues which need it. The first great essential for good health, therefore, is pure, rich blood. No medicine has such a record of cures as Hood's Sarsaparilla and it is because it is the one true blood purifier. Hundreds of people are alive and well today who would have been in their graves had they not taken Hood's Sarsaparilla. It is depended upon as a family medicine by thousands.

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.