

Nebraska Independent

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WANTED: The Independent knows of a person who wishes to buy a 6-column quarto press and a folder. He would figure on a whole plant. Address box E, Independent Pub. Co.

The Cincinnati Enquirer should get an editorial writer who at least knows the most common economic terms and how to use them. It still keeps talking about "intrinsic value."

Tom Johnson has announced that he will take up the fight where Henry George left it off. That rises the goldbug press, and they have begun their old plan made and provided for such cases. They don't try to disprove the soundness of Tom's principles but they say he is a thief.

McKinley fights the Filipinos and then says: "See what a great and brave president I am." But he is afraid to fight the Standard Oil trust. Every time he thinks of such a thing his knees knock together and the cold sweat starts out on his face. When McKinley attacks a trust then we will begin to think that he is entitled to be called brave.

Already the gentlemen at Washington whose duty it is to look after the revenues and are beginning to look around for new subjects of taxation. The tremendous deficits stagger them. The Independent suggests that a stamp tax be put upon railroad passenger tickets with the proviso that the roads shall supply the stamps themselves and not charge them to the passenger.

It is not a dollar which is good in Europe that we want, but one which will buy one bushel of wheat or two bushels of corn in Nebraska. Then if we have thirty dollars of taxes to pay, thirty bushels of wheat or sixty bushels of corn will pay them, and not sixty bushels of wheat and 120 bushels of corn as now. That is the kind of a dollar we want in Nebraska.

It appears from Murat Halstead's writings and other documentary evidence that Aganillo came to this country at the request of General Merritt when he was the commander of our forces at Manila. This being the fact, the imperialists who are now engaged in calling him vile names are out of order and should take their seats and keep silence.

Mr. Farwell, of Chicago, has a good deal to say about confiscation. Anything that will lessen the income of the millionaires he calls confiscation. But who are the confiscators? Is it not these same millionaires, whose millions show how much they have confiscated of the product of other men's labors? They have been confiscating the whole increase of wealth for the last twenty years.

The deficit of \$112,000,000 announced by the secretary of the treasury needs serious revising in several points. One item in the correction should be a reduction in the receipts of the government of \$4,751,222. That amount was paid into the treasury during the year by Union Pacific and Kansas Pacific railroads. That amount should be added to the deficit of war taxes and Dingley bill.

President Harper, of the Rockefeller plutocratic university of Chicago, in a speech the other night said the church is losing its hold on the people. The kind of church he represents no doubt is, but outside the ranks of the bishops—the \$10,000 preachers and palace like church edifices—the teachings of Christ are taking a deeper hold upon the people all the time. "Truth can never die." Hypocrisy runs its day and disappears.

The courts have been accused of coming to the relief of the corporations pretty promptly whenever it was necessary to relieve them from obedience to a law that in any way mitigated their demands upon the people, by issuing injunctions or declaring laws unconstitutional. This process has become too slow for the republicans of Kansas and they have invented a much easier way. Their attorney general annulled all the laws passed by one session of the legislature by one stroke of his pen without waiting for the courts to get a chance at them. The republicans are delighted with this new way. It causes them less trouble and it is much easier.

A PUTTY PRESIDENT.

The saturnalia of extravagance, militarism and greed for conquest which has held sway at Washington for the last six months is beginning to alarm even some of the republicans. A warning cry has gone forth from several of them during the last week, chief of which was from Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriation committee of the house. He made a statement on the floor of the house very similar to what has been said a great many times of late in the INDEPENDENT. In regard to the enormous deficit, notwithstanding the increased tariffs under the Dingley bill and the heavy war taxes imposed, Mr. Cannon made a general statement. The secretary of the treasury in October last, Mr. Cannon said, had estimated the deficiency of the revenues for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1899, to be \$112,000,000, or a monthly average of \$9,333,000. In his judgment in the light of the receipts and expenditures for the first seven months thus estimated, the deficiency was much too low. The actual deficiency up to Feb. 1, 1899, was \$93,151,000, an average of \$13,307,000 a month. At this rate the deficiency for the fiscal year would be \$159,000,000. But this would not include the \$20,000,000 provided by the bill to carry out the provisions of the Paris treaty. The cash balance in the treasury Feb. 1, including the \$100,000,000 gold reserve, was \$274,000,000. Two hundred millions of that had been put into the revenues by the war loan.

It will be seen that Mr. Cannon acknowledges a deficit, including the \$20,000,000 to be paid to Spain, of \$179,000,000. But he does not take into account a great many items which all taken together will foot up more than \$80,000,000 more. In the treaty with Spain we agreed to pay all the claims of American citizens against that government for false imprisonment and loss of property during the last Cuban war. More than \$100,000,000 of such claims have already been filed and no one believes that we will get off with a payment of less than \$25,000,000. The increase of appropriations for the enlarged army and navy and public buildings will add several millions more.

It will be seen that when the INDEPENDENT some time ago announced that the deficiency would be \$200,000,000, it was rather below than above. This is a terrible contingency to face—such a contingency as this government never faced before. The enormous expense of transporting troops and carrying on a war 7,000 miles from home, the \$10,000,000 that is to be appropriated for the census, the maintaining of troops in Cuba and Porto Rico, the building of twelve new warships and other increased expenditures make a dark outlook for the future. Without doubt, taxation will have to be enormously increased and more bonds issued.

This state of affairs has been brought about by the wild excesses of men who went wild over the thought of conquest and who have been allowed to have their way by a president who is merely putty in the hands of trust magnates and military martinetts.

THE PRIVATE SOLDIER.

There does not seem to be an imperialist among the common soldiers over in Manila. The editor of the INDEPENDENT has seen a number of letters from them in which they spoke their minds freely, not for publication, but to their nearest friends. He has also made it point to read the scores of letters that have been printed in the weekly papers that come to this office. In not a single case has a private soldier advocated the retention of the Philippines. They all without exception, want to come home.

The importance of these letters are very great for the best young manhood of Nebraska enlisted when the call to help the suffering Cubans was first made. Many of these men are college students, many more are from our best families and all of them are well educated. They are there, they have seen the country and the people, they understand the situation better than any one at home, and not one of them is an imperialist as far as heard from.

A lot of old coppers, past the military age, with Tom Majors at their head took it upon themselves to telegraph the president the offer of another regiment of cavalry from Nebraska to fight the Filipinos as soon as they heard of the last battle at Manila. Probably not one of them could pass an examination for entrance into the army. But they did not represent the people of Nebraska. They would be willing to go as officers, but when they come to get the privates, they would find that the enthusiasm that war has filled the ranks with the war was to free Cubans, will be entirely lacking, when the object of the war is the conquest of a people who only want independence.

WORSER THAN INFIDELS.

One of the main objects of the imperialists seems to be in a fair way of accomplishment. They want public attention drawn away from domestic affairs so they can more freely plant the gold standard as the settled policy of the American people. Attention is attracted to a row in the Philippines, to the rumple in Hanes, to the trouble in Cuba, and to the management of affairs in Porto Rico. The interest of these foreign payers, centered all over the face of the earth, must be attended to. They

occupy most of the time of the senators and representatives. They are the only things discussed at cabinet meetings as far as the public knows. Meantime the interests of American citizens, seventy millions in number, is confided to Mark Hanna, Steve Elkins, Allison, and Aldrich. The toiling masses who have made this country great receive little or no attention. The affairs of the half-savage Filipino is of far more importance and occupies far more of the time of the authorities than that of the American people. They are left to be devoured by trusts and consumed by corporate wealth, while the national authorities undertake the establishment of stable governments in the islands of the south seas. That is just the condition of affairs that the trusts and bank magnates desired. We want new men in power at Washington—men who are patriotic enough to look first after the interests of their own people and after that is attended to, if they have time to spare, they may go to setting up stable governments for the Latin and Malay races. "If any provide not for his own, and especially those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel."

THE GREAT REPUTADIATORS.

If it has come to a point where a political party can openly repudiate the platform upon which it was elected, then representative government is a total failure. Until within the last year no successful political party ever dared to go contrary to the plainly expressed principles upon which it obtained office. Parties have heretofore put up platforms that could bear more than one interpretation and then took either one or the other of the interpretations for a basis of action, but never until this administration did a party, successful at the polls, inaugurate and enforce policies in direct contradiction to the principles expressed in its platform. This the republican party has done. In their platform they say: "From the hour of achieving their own independence, the people of the United States have regarded with sympathy the struggles of other American people to free themselves." How does that correspond with the doctrines of conquest which the administration has entered upon?

The platform pledged the administration to promote international bi-metalism. When it was seen that it was possible, the administration defeated it. The president then and again declared from his front porch that he was opposed to the destruction of any of our money. Now he advocates the retirement of the greenbacks. The repudiation of a party platform and the inauguration of a different policy is repudiation in its most criminal form. It is far more criminal than the repudiation of a debt. The greatest repudiators in the history of the world are McKinley, his cabinet, and the leaders of the republican party.

AN AWFUL OUTRAGE.

The most disgraceful thing ever said about a Nebraska or any other soldier appeared in the State Journal last Monday. It charged that the noble boys, sons of Christian fathers and mothers, who have gone from our colleges and schools at the call of the country are shooting down Filipinos with the same enjoyment and zeal that they would shoot rabbits. Have these men whom we know are among the best of the citizenship of the state become such horrible brutes in the few months since they left us that they take delight in the suffering and death of human beings? The Spanish have been charged with brutal characteristics of that kind but this is the first time that such a charge has ever been made against Americans. The Independent protests with all the vigor of which it is capable against such a slander. Lest it is thought that the State Journal is misrepresented, the exact words that it used are here reprinted. The Independent would like to hear from some of the patriotic citizens of this state what they think of such an outrageous slander of Nebraska soldiers. The article can be found in the third column on the editorial page of the State Journal of Feb. 13, 1899, and is as follows:

"General Otis intends to make a thorough job of the pacification of the island of Luzon before he pauses for a rest. Campaigning in this season of the year is not difficult and his men are enjoying the hunt as much as if it were a rabbit chase."

THE PLUTOCRATIC CHURCH.

If any one stops in the mad pursuit of the dollar long enough to think for five minutes upon the subject he will be astonished at the way the plutocratic churches have forsaken the teachings of Christ. Christ says: "Woe unto you that are rich." The church says: "It is a desirable thing to be rich." Christ says: "You cannot serve God and mammon." The church says by her adoration to full fellowship of sinners, and extortioners: "Oh! Yes you can. It is very easy. Serve God on Sundays and pile up wealth on week days." Christ says: "Forgive your debtors." The church says: "Halt them before the court and make them pay every cent." No it is all the way. There is not a point where the plutocratic church and the teachings of Christ touch each other. One of these days another Wesley will arise and knock these churches into splinters. The world awaits his coming.

OUR DUTY.

A great many long and learned speeches have been made in the senate and house in regard to the constitutionality of a colonial policy. One set of constitutional lawyers claim that if the Philippine islands are annexed that they become thereby as much a part of the United States as any other part and that the bill of rights trial by jury, free commerce, representative government and all other guarantees of equality before the law will apply to them. The other set say that the conquered territory will have no constitutional rights whatever, and can be governed by congress in any way that that body sees fit. This latter is the imperialistic view. But even they will hardly contend that we must annex the Philippines whether we want to or not. Certainly under the constitution we have a right to say we don't want them. That is the question. Without doubt there is a very large majority of the citizens of this country who are opposed to annexation on any terms. If the Filipinos would give us a hundred million to take them and set up a government for them, we would refuse the offer. We don't want to go into the business of setting up governments in the Philippines or anywhere else. We have enough to do to run our own government. We haven't made a very good job even of that of late years. We have hardly begun the development of this vast domain that is already ours. Let us improve our own country and give it good government. That is our "duty."

POPULISM.

The Independent is a populist paper. It supports the populist platform—every plank of it, but it utterly refuses to advocate theories not contained in that platform and especially theories that are at variance with it. It seems to be the idea of a very few men in Nebraska that if a populist paper refuses to attack the party and some of its leading members every once in a while and refuses to advocate theories never endorsed in any populist convention, that it is not a populist paper. That is in accordance with the vagaries which these men advance. The free coinage of silver has been a plank in the populist platform ever since it was organized. It has been unanimously endorsed at every national and state convention that the party ever held. So has the government issue of full legal tender money, the public ownership of railroads and municipal franchises, postal savings banks and during the last four years the initiative and referendum. These are the things that the Independent stands for. It will continue to stand for them. These ideas are having a continuous growth. In the near future they will become the policies of this government. After they are adopted then the party will take up other beneficial remedies. But these things are fundamental. They are what constitute populism. The Independent advocates them all. It is a populist paper.

SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

The Beacon Light of South Dakota, after quoting the editorial in the Independent calling attention to Miss Goff's letter says:

"Strange that such populist (fusion) papers as the Independent are always urging the 'getting together' on Bryan's plan of free coinage and redeemable government paper currency." Now Ham, you know better than that and you should apologize for writing such stuff. The very editorial you quote refers to that "redeemable in coin" business. This paper has never printed a line that could be tortured into favoring such a system. The editor of the Independent has advocated full legal tender paper money for twenty-five years, of which fact Ham Kautzman is well informed. He probably had the mulligrumps when he wrote that article and if he don't do so any more we will forgive him. But really he ought to apologize.

HANNA'S BIGGRAB.

Hanna's subsidy scheme was turned inside out in congress the other day. The magnificent proportions of the proposed theft is in accordance with Hanna's previous career. The International Navigation company, which is Hanna, would receive \$7,000,000 of the subsidies which the bill provides. That would twice pay for all the ships that Hanna would build. Hanna did not make a fight to get into the senate for nothing. Men of his character go there for one purpose only—to get special privileges and subsidies. McKinley will be forced to stand by him in this grab or Hanna will draw that \$180,000 mortgage on him, and then whose would the greatest president since Lincoln be?

CATCH PHRASES.

When the debt creators and bond issuers first started out to make labor forever pay a usurious tribute to capital, conservative and thinking men pointed with fear to the first billion dollar congress. The republican leaders replied with the catch phrase: "This is a billion dollar country," and that was all sufficient for the unthinking dupes who make up the majority of the republican voters. The next congress will be a billion and a half congress and the next after that, if imperialism is to be the government policy, will be a two billion congress. All that will be necessary for the republican leaders to do to hold the allegiance of

the masses of ignorance that constitutes the most of their party, when national taxation begins to grind the very lives out of them will be to say: "Oh! this is a two billion dollar country" and their dupes will toil and sweat and pay over their hard earnings and meekly reply: "Oh! yes, this is a two billion dollar country."

IS MORTON INSANE.

Mr. Morton in the last issue of his paper makes the following statement in reviewing a railroad article in the Political Science quarterly. He says: "Mr. Dixon proceeds in order and logically to show that the farmers, under the circumstances described, have been easily persuaded to believe that the railroads have been responsible for poor crops, lack of rain and all other misfortunes."

Mr. Morton must be at least partially insane when he makes in perfect earnestness such a statement as that. Any man who would state as a fact that the farmers of Nebraska have been persuaded to believe that railroads are responsible for the lack of rain, poor crops and all other misfortunes, even death and sickness, is certainly not of sound mind. The friends of Mr. Morton have looked upon his vagaries as simply aberrations of a mind that was at other times sound, but to write out such a statement as that, have it set up in type, read the proof and send it out to the public, is proof that the man has lost his balance altogether. If any one visits an insane asylum he will find that nearly every patient there is sane on some subjects. Some of them are sane on all subjects except one or two. When those are mentioned they go absolutely wild. That seems to be the case with Mr. Morton. His worst delusions seem to be railroads and farmers. Poor Mr. Morton.

UNBEARABLE TAXATION.

The Independent for several weeks past has been calling attention to the enormous taxation that will have to be imposed upon the American people if this saturnalia at Washington is not checked. The Silver Knight has the following to say on the same subject:

"Among the items of expenditure we find the secretary's estimate for cost of military establishment put down at \$250,000,000, the cost of naval establishment \$50,000,000, and for pensions \$141,000,000; making the total expenditures of the government for the year for war purposes and pensions foot up \$451,000,000. Would it not be well for the taxpayers of the country to repress their excitement over the late war and calmly survey the situation in which we find ourselves and take our bearings, and ascertain whither we are drifting?"

If the present program of imperialism is carried out the United States will soon be the most heavily taxed nation on the face of the earth. Is it not time to call a halt?

The republicans in the Nebraska house the other day presented a resolution which ended up with the declaration that McKinley was the greatest president since Lincoln. Well he could be that and not so very great after all, but wherein does McKinley's greatness consist? An old republican was asked to state what single great thing McKinley had done, what speech he had delivered that would live in history like some of Lincoln's speeches, what race had he set free, what policy he had inaugurated that would benefit the people and for which he would be remembered long after he was dead? The old man scratched his head and finally replied that he knew that McKinley was a great man or the republicans would never have elected him president.

The Lyons Mirror, a republican paper says: The American people want argument and now let the republican editors get at it and endeavor to prove that the single gold standard is a success and that bimetalism would be a failure. Brother Warner will wait a long while before he sees the republican papers making an argument. They have not been trained in that school. All of their training has been in the use of epithets and personal abuse of public men with whom they disagreed. In that kind of writing they can beat a pop or a democrat every time. But argument! Oh! no. They don't know even how to try.

A great many thoughtful men begin to believe that there is a secret treaty or understanding between the McKinley administration and Lord Salisbury to the effect that the United States shall hold the Philippines and establish the open door policy so that England may monopolize the trade. England has not spent one dollar to get an open door in the Philippines. We have paid all the costs of opening the door, both in money and precious lives, and England is to come in and reap the reward. No wonder the English commercial class is effusively friendly. Under such circumstances they could not well be otherwise.

Notwithstanding the vessels we captured from Spain, the committee of the house has resolved to build twelve new warships, costing from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000 each. A standing army of 100,000 men, a navy such as we never dreamed of building, a new war 7,000 miles from home, a deficit of nearly two hundred millions—is the result of the practice of imperialism for six months. What it will be at the end of a year no man can tell.

LICHTY'S DISCHARGE.

The INDEPENDENT had intended to make no comment on the dismissal of Mr. Lichty from the Auditor's office further than appears in the short note in the news of the week elsewhere. But Mr. Lichty has seen fit to rush to the Journal and the Bee with a long statement, which in the minds of all decent men convicts himself of worse crimes than he brings against the man who appointed him to office. As stated in the news note, the question of passes had nothing to do with Mr. Lichty's dismissal. He was discharged for not performing the duties of the office according to the rules of the office and as the law requires.

In proof of this there is plenty of documentary evidence on file in the Auditor's office. The following letter shows how Mr. Lichty took upon himself to sign the Auditor's name to illegal and criminal documents.

February 10, 1899.

Mr.—Dear Sir:—As per request of your recent letter I herewith hand you license for the current year. If you have not remitted ten dollars to the state treasury to pay your annual license fee please do so without delay. It is more convenient for me to speak about it in this way than to go and look at the books and see if the money has arrived.

I notice in your report that your assets are a little over a hundred dollars and your liabilities a little over three hundred dollars. These are not large liabilities of course, but all the same it makes your company appear insolvent. It seems to you you might recall your report and list in your assets, printed blanks, office furniture and assessments due in the next few months or something of the kind that might make the matter look solvent. Under no circumstances should a financial corporation put out a statement showing liabilities in excess of the assets.

Very truly,

JOHN F. CORNELL, Auditor of State, Per SAM'L LICHTY, Ins. Deputy.

An illegal license was enclosed and sent to the manager of this insurance company also signed by the Auditor and sent out of the office without filing a copy and without the knowledge of the Auditor.

Mr. Lichty knew that the law required that the license fee should be paid in advance. He knew that it was illegal to issue a license to a company that was insolvent. Notwithstanding all this, he issues a license to such a company and signs the Auditor's name as deputy, and sends it away without the knowledge of the Auditor and without making a proper record as required by the rules of the office. The auditor got the letter back after being informed of the very crooked proceeding by writing to the postoffice authorities before the insolvent company got hold of it.

Here was an insolvent company. Mr. Lichty's sworn duty was to refuse it a license, but instead of that, he writes to the manager telling him to list his blanks and does not yet paid in, "or something of the kind," as assets. For conduct such as this Mr. Lichty was discharged and it is good and sufficient cause for his dismissal.

The man who did this thing has played "the holier than thou" part and is still trying to play it. In thirty years that this writer has had experience with public men, he has never known a man who tried to play that part but ended in the same way.

Mr. Cornell invites the fullest investigation of his office. He did so during the campaign and still does so. There is not a public office in the United States where every clerk in it is as much at the service of any one seeking information as the auditor's office at the state capitol of Nebraska. If any man thinks there is anything wrong there, he is invited to come and look the matter up.

SHAKING THE LAMBS.

And old friend and co-worker for many years, asks the editor of the Independent to tell what this tremendous increase in the organization of trusts means and what will be the end of it all. What will be the end no man can tell, but the present activity in that line can be easily explained. It seems that we have raised in the last few years an enormous number of lambs who are just standing around asking some one to shear them a la Hoolley, of London, England. The trusts that are now forming are nothing more than what is called in England "limited liability companies." They are organized for the purpose of shearing the lambs, and the lambs are coming right along, lying down and saying: "Please get out your shears and go to work."

Take the Leiter milk trust as it is described in the papers. It is organized with \$10,000,000 capital. Every man

Swollen Neck

Also Had Great Difficulty With Her Heart - Now Cured.

"My daughter had a swollen neck and also heart trouble. After the least exertion she would breathe so hard she could not sleep the floor or even move her arms without affecting her heart. Her limbs were badly bloated. Her father insisted that she must take Hood's Sarsaparilla, and she gave her about six bottles, when she was cured, and there has been no return of her ailment." Mrs. EMMA THOMAS, North Solon, Ohio.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

It is the best - in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. \$1.00 per bottle.

Hood's Pills