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The Chicago Federation of labor is down on the Chicago Record and Daily News

Our mathematician offers the following problem, already solved, as worthy the consideration of the authors of our school books:
 0-\$180,000-\$100,000,000=McKinley.

Mr. McKinley.—See here you Filipino. You must have liberty I tell you. If you wont take it any other way we will shoot it into you with thirteen inch guns and magazine rifles.

The engineers appointed to survey the international South American railroad, and they are of the highest grade in their profession, report that the cost of building the road would be \$32,000 per mile. But according to the railroad magnates of Nebraska it cost over \$90,000 a mile to build the B. & M. and over \$100,000 a mile to build the Union Pacific.

Alger had a hot time in the old town of Boston the other night. As he rode along in the grand pageant of the McKinley parade, the citizens greeted him with a new college yell. It was a suphonoous sort of a yell and given with such force that it made the windows rattle. Here it is: "Yah, yah, yah! beef, beef." At other points he was greeted with: "Three cheers for General Miles." There was a hot time in the old town that night.

Just as was predicted, the Mississippi Valley Democrat has become more radical than the populists. It is now advocating a government without taxation, and several other radical things not contained in the populist platform. The Independent prefers to walk in the old road, which is staked out in the populist platform. The people are beginning to know that road pretty well. It is so plain that a wayfaring man, though a fool, may not mistake it.

Now we have it straight. There can be no more denying it or doubting it. At the Boston banquet McKinley said in the following words: "Domestic conditions are generally satisfactory" and "we have realized prosperity." That settles it. There are no men hunting work and unable to find it. There are no starving thousands in the great cities. There are no mortgages on the homes of the people. The story in the New York papers about the 15,000 starving families is all a lie. "Domestic conditions are satisfactory."

The once savage and heathen nation of Japan has made more progress in the last fifty years under self-government by their own people than India has in 300 years under the proterectate of Great Britain. The statesmanship of McKinley is on a par with the advice of the old woman who told the boy that she wanted him to learn to swim, but he must not go near the water until he knew how or he might be drowned. There is no way for a people to learn self government but by putting it in practice.

IS MCKINLEY GUILTY.

A startling special cablegram appeared in the Chicago Record last Thursday. It was sent by that paper's correspondent in Manila, Mr. Murray Mehal, and was as follows:

"It seems impossible to shake the opinion that prevails here that the Americans provoked the battle with the insurgents at Manila. Those who are willing to admit that this may not have been done deliberately and for the sake of its effect on the ratification of the peace treaty in the United States senate declare that at all events want of tact and consideration on the part of the Americans was responsible for the outbreak."

It that fight was brought on by McKinley's orders, for it is not possible that an old army officer, like General Otis who has never known anything but to obey orders for the last thirty years, would bring on a fight without orders, then the blood of the six Nebraska dead soldiers is upon McKinley's hands as well as that of all the others who fell that day. It was not war, it was murder, both of Filipinos and of our own soldiers. Time will tell whether McKinley is guilty of that awful crime.

BLAINE'S STATESMANSHIP.

When the statesmanship of Blaine is compared with that of McKinley, the latter sinks out of sight. Blaine organized the Bureau of South American Republics and proposed the building of an international railroad running from New York through the United States, Mexico and along the backbone of South America to the verge of the cultivated zone in the south. The plan was taken up by all of these republics and the engineers appointed to make the preliminary survey have just made their report. There was a scheme that would cost us less than we have to pay Spain for the privilege of carrying on an unending war with the Filipinos. Blaine's plan carried out would increase the commerce of the United States ten times as much as the conquest of the Philippines. But it did not present an excuse for an immense standing army or require the building of a great navy, so it does not commend itself to a puppet of the trusts and tool of the military martinet like McKinley.

A CORRECTION.

In a previous issue of the INDEPENDENT it was said that the worst lunatic in the state resided up in Burt county and was going about soliciting signatures to a petition that declared that the people of this state "expected" this republican legislature to pass a law lowering freight and passenger rates. We ask pardon and take it all back. The craziest republican in the state does not reside in Burt county but somewhere else and his name is Shallenberger. As proof of this the following statement which appeared over his signature in the State Journal of last Sunday is submitted. He says:

"The great increase in our expenses is attracting the attention of all the governments of Europe and they justly view it with alarm. France and Germany are staggering under the fearful taxation to maintain their own armies and as under the American tariff system the entire expense of our nation has to be borne by these foreign countries they shudder at the prospect. This was why the foreign holders of Cuban bonds did not interfere to compel us to assume them. They knew they would have them to pay and by losing them they save the cost of collecting."

A man who can sit down, lick war tax stamps and declare that the foreigner pays for them, is certainly a lunatic. He may be harmless and allowed to run at large on that ground, but his reasoning power is gone.

A REPUBLICAN KICK.

During the last two or three weeks several republican papers have shown signs of revolt against the inhuman policy adopted by the McKinley administration. The following is from the Sterling Sun one of the staunchest republican papers in all Nebraska.

"The vast number of trusts already formed and every day forming, the Sun believes will soon become a greater menace to civilization, and human happiness and prosperity to the masses of the people, than anything that with which they will have to contend. They not only will control the prices at which their products will be sold to the people but also the prices for which the producers of the country will have to sell their products. When any set of men have this absolute power, the results are dangerous. They will and are already crushing the individual and small manufacturers in many lines of business, and every week finds new trusts added to the list. They may be able to, and possibly do reduce prices to start with, but this is only to crush out small competitors whom they cannot buy out; and when the absolute power is in the hands of the trust, the result is inevitable. It is human to grasp at the last dollar; and it is not possible that the souls of the trusts will be any more generous to the people than individuals would. What is to become of the thousands of men now engaged in individual manufacturing, is a question that is to be seriously considered. We have not yet felt the crushing power of trusts, but we will unless they are crushed. Mind the prediction."

Will the Sun continue to support the republican party when it, and it alone is responsible for the trusts? There is an anti trust law on the statute books which the McKinley administration refuses to enforce. Every trust in the United States contributed to the election of McKinley and every trust supports his administration. Under these conditions what will the Sun do. Go on supporting the trusts by supporting the republican party?

McKinley's speech at Boston the other night was made up of the same wishey-washey stuff that he distributed to the people when he was swinging round the circles on a political campaign last fall and calling it a peace jubilee. In speaking of the war of conquest in the Philippine islands, he called it "contributing from our ease and comfort for the welfare of others." Our troops wading through rice swamps, charging fortifications, fighting unseen enemies hidden in the jungles did not find much ease and comfort, but they contributed to the welfare of the Filipinos by sending about 2,000 of them to the happy hunting grounds where United States soldiers will shoot them down no more forever. In that happy land they will find that McKinley was lavishly shooting holes in their bodies for the good of their souls because it was his "duty" and "manliest destiny."

It had been supposed that Senator Talbot had associated with Mr. Bryan long enough when they were partners in the law business to learn the amenities that are universally observed among

gentlemen who are in public life. But it seems that his constant association with republicans has more than offset the advantages he has enjoyed. In the discussion of the university bill he adopted the republican plan of impugning the motives of his antagonist instead of trying to answer his arguments. But the worst break of the amnities recently seen was when he tried in vain to prevent a minority representation on the committee that was to investigate the auditor's office. That is what most men would call "low down politics."

CONFIRMED STUPIDITY.

The republican rank and file have been reduced to the stupidity of following a party name, regardless of the purpose of the party. Take the average republican voter, blind to all interests of the nation and to his own interests, he will declare that he is an "Abraham Lincoln republican." Now one of Lincoln's most celebrated sayings and the one that is the most often quoted is that part of his Gettysberg speech where he expresses his desire "a government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish. That is in direct line with Jefferson's declaration of independence which declares that all governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed. There can be nothing more opposed to the principles of Lincoln than an attempt to force a government upon the people of the Philippine islands against their consent. Yet the mass of ignorance, stupidity and greed that make up the following of the republican party, call this defiance of all that Lincoln ever promulgated or defined, "Abraham Lincoln republicanism."

WHERE ARE THEY?

There is a minister in this city who makes it a point to frequently remind his congregation of the text that says that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Some of the leaders of the democratic party are finding that out. In 1893, when this writer was a Washington correspondent, he watched the course of the democratic leaders who were betraying their constituents and abandoning the record that every one of them had made, at the dictation of the banks and the London money power. Every one of them has been driven from public life or will retire on the 4th of March. Here is a list of the senators, all democrats and all previously pledged to the free coinage of silver, who voted for the repeal of the Sherman act: Gray, Gordon, Palmer, Turpie, Vorhees, Lidsay, White (La) Gorman, McPherson, Hill, Murphy, Ransom, Brice, Mitchell, Mills, Faulkner and Vilas. Where are they now? Every one of them beaten. Some of them afterward repented of their action, but that did not save them. Some of them have gone to their final account, dying in disgrace and dishonor. They have reaped what they sowed. "The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine." White of Louisiana, may be said to be an exception. He escaped the wrath of the people by being given a life appointment on the supreme bench, but time is long and the harvest is not yet gathered.

NO SIDE ISSUES.

It does not require a great deal of political common sense to see what the republicans would like to have the populists do. It would please the corporation leaders very much if by any sort of scheme the populists could be made to abandon, for one campaign at least, the old doctrines and principles which has carried them to victory so many times in the past. They would like to force the populist party to take up some little side issue and make that the paramount thing in the next campaign, so they are bending every energy toward forcing us to make passes the thing to fight over next time. They know if they could get us to lay aside the great fundamental principles laid down in the Omaha platform and reaffirmed again at St. Louis, that they would have little trouble in carrying the state at the next election.

But the populist party is not going to do any such foolish thing. In the next campaign we are going to talk about the money question, government ownership of railroads, trusts, standing armies, municipal ownership of street cars, water works, gas, the telephones and telegraphs just as we always have done. Some of these wild-eyed fellows are claiming that the pass question is one of the fundamental things. It was not mentioned in the Omaha platform nor in the St. Louis platform and never in any state platform until last year and then it failed to excite any interest during the campaign. The state convention will likely have a plank on that question and the party will stand where it stood last year. It will demand the passage of a law making it a criminal offense to issue passes and if the next legislature is populist it will pass such a law. No Nebraska republican legislature will ever do it. Republicans will howl about passes just as long as they think there is any chance of making a division in the populist party by doing so. When they find that game is no good they will stop.

There is more sound statesmanship and good common sense in the letter of "Private A," printed in another column of this paper than in the whole McKinley administration. Read it and see if you do not think so.

THE PASS QUESTION.

The last few weeks has developed the fact that there is a difference of opinion in the populist party in regard to the use of passes. The Independent believes that the men who thus differ in opinion are equally honest. It is only the excitable ones who go about accusing those who differ with them of dishonesty and being bribe takers. The statement of Mr. Meserve, printed in this issue of the Independent, represents one side, while the other side is represented by those who say that passes should always be refused. There are weighty arguments to be made on both sides of the question.

It is a fact and every one in politics knows that the railroads used transportation to an enormous extent in aid of the republican party during the last presidential campaign in this state. Free trains were run by them to carry men to republican rallies. A few days before the election, hundreds and perhaps thousands of free tickets were given by the railroads to men in Colorado to come to Nebraska to vote for Bryan. For years the delegates to republican conventions were all given free passes. All republican state officers and many of the county officers were furnished with them. Besides that, many prominent citizens who had, or were supposed to have political influence, never paid any passenger fare.

A great outcry was made about this matter. It gave the republican party in the state an immense advantage over any party in opposition to them. Notwithstanding that advantage, the state was rescued from the control of that party.

Immediately there was a change in the attitude of the railroads toward the populist party. They began to issue passes to the populist office holders and some of the influential men in the fusion ranks. These passes were almost universally accepted and used. Here was where the difference of opinion arose. The state officers said: "If the railroads will give us passes that will be just that much saving to the taxpayers and it will come out of the funds of the railroads and not out of the taxpayers' pocket. It is our duty to make that saving for the taxpayers if we can." On the other hand, it was said that the passes should be refused. That the taking of a pass was the reception of a bribe. This latter statement is not only unjust, but it has not so far been established by any proof whatever.

The position taken by Mr. Meserve is endorsed by many just as true and honorable men as take the other side of the question of ethics involved. They say that the railroads can stop giving passes at any time, but that as long as they issue them to the republican party they should issue them to all other parties. They point to the fact that in some states the railroads are compelled to furnish all state officers with free transportation. But at any rate that as long as the railroads issue passes, they should be forced, if possible to issue them to all political parties alike. When they get tired of it they can stop it of their own motion.

At the next state convention the party will probably take some official action upon the question by which all members of the party will be guided in the future.

Until that time it will be well to stop calling names and imputing vile motives to men who have never been known to be guilty of a dishonorable action.

POPULISM ADVANCES.

Populism continues to break out in new and unexpected places all the time. The last eruption is in New York City. A new quarterly has made its appearance, called Justice, which is published by the Justice Publishing company at 16 Dey street in that city. It is crammed full of red hot populist discussion, taking up separately every plank of the populist platform and advocating in a scholarly and logical argument every principle of the populist party. Send ten cents to the publishers and get the first issue. It contains a week's reading and lays down the fundamental principles in a way that will be of very great use to every reformer in the land.

The New York 400 have invented a system of torture that exceeds in cruelty the inventions of Torquemada or the tortures inflicted by Weyler on the unfortunate Cubans. They go out in their carriages on the coldest days and then force their coachman to stand perfectly still in the fierce blasts and zero weather and wait while they make their long calls. If the unfortunate man stamps his foot or moves about in the least he is instantly discharged. The time was when such cruelty would have provoked a general protest, but the American people are becoming more and more the abject slaves of the millionaires. However cruel they may be or whatever tortures they may inflict upon mankind, there is no general uprising against them. It might hurt the prospects of the republican party.

The people of the city of Washington seem to be given over to standing armies, imperialism and unlimited appropriations. Three-fourths of them are office holders, and having, under the civil service laws, a life tenure, they harbor no convictions in common with those who in the fields and shops have to toil for their daily bread. They are denouncing every species of dissent from

the plans of the plutocratic leaders to establish a huge standing army, and the making of billion dollar appropriations as "reasonable utterances." The gold-bug correspondents are re-echoing it in their correspondence and the dailies are calling every man who stands by the declaration of independence a "copperhead." If they keep up that sort of thing much longer they will find that it is not such a pleasant game as some of them fancy it is.

ECONOMIC DISCUSSION.

Last week the Independent was in receipt of a very long article (19 pages of manuscript) on socialism. In some parts it was very insulting in tone, plainly stating that at least one statement made by the editor was false, although the writer had no possible means of knowing whether it was false or not. It was not on account of that sort of writing that the article was not published, for it is such a common habit among socialists that it must always be expected. Fourteen pages of the manuscript is devoted to denouncing the Independent's interpretation of socialism, then he says that "socialism will bring equal industrial rights for the masses, and will abolish industrial classes and distinctions; but it cannot and will not attempt to equalize men's industrial capacities. It will reward men alike only in opportunities for labor and self development, not by an exact and equal share in the national wealth. The 'lazy lout' will, if anything, fare worse than now. On the other hand, the 'skill, industry, intelligence,' which now goes poorly rewarded, will be highly rewarded," etc. Now this writer has read that sort of writing by the volume. The works on socialism are filled with it, but when it comes to telling how this state of beatitude will result from the "public ownership of all the means of production and distribution," he says: "This is not intended as an exposition of socialism. Nothing like a thorough treatment of the subject can be attempted in an ordinary newspaper article."

It is at exactly that point that all socialist writers stop, so the following letter was written to induce him to write on the subject under discussion:

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 15, 1899.

Mr. —: Your article on socialism is herewith returned. It is very long for a small weekly paper. Commencing on page 15 of your article, you make a statement of what socialism will do. If it will do that, of course I am in favor of it. Now, if you will write an article telling HOW socialism will do it—the nature of the laws you would have enacted to bring it about—the effect that the common ownership of property would produce and HOW it would produce them, I will be pleased to print it. I have never been able to get such a statement, although I have frequently asked socialists to write such an article. I am perfectly familiar with the writings of Engels, Granlund, Hyndman, Blatchford, Marx, Proudhon, and the platform of the social labor party. If the public ownership of all the means of production and distribution does not mean the common ownership of all property, it does not mean anything. Perhaps the nature of the article I would like to get you to write may best be made plain by giving you an account of an interview I had with Morris Swift, whom I met in Washington. Mr. Swift was lecturing there on socialism. I suppose you know he is a graduate of one of the great universities, and a post graduate of Johns Hopkins. I invited Mr. Swift to my rooms (and by the way, no more enthusiastic, generous-hearted and honest man lives; I asked him to sit down at a table; I gave him pen, ink and paper, and said: "Now Mr. Swift, suppose that the socialists had elected a two-thirds majority in both houses of congress and a president, and you were requested to draft a law to bring socialism into effect. Please write out a skeleton of the bill that you would draw up to put it in force." Mr. Swift sat at the table a long time in silence with the pen in his hand. At last he laid it down and said: "The first thing that would have to be done would be to abolish the constitution of the United States." I said: "We will call the constitution abolished. Now go ahead and write your bill." Mr. Swift never wrote a line of that bill, and I have never succeeded in getting a socialist to do so. I now make an appeal to you.

You say (p. 15) that "socialism will bring equal industrial rights." Tell now it will, and you shall have all the space you want to print it. The excuse for speaking of socialism as "idealistic rot" (it may not be a good one) is because socialists refuse to tell how this present system is to be changed to the common ownership and give some substantial reasons to lead one to believe that the result of the public ownership of all the means of production and distribution would bring about that state of things which you depict in your letter. If the collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution will not, and all economists think it will not, tell us where they are wrong. Is not your statement (p. 13) that it will not result in "an equal share in the national wealth" a contradiction of the socialist platform? If not, how will the shares be divided under public ownership, and by what authority? If you will write an article that does not deal in idealistic prophecies of what socialism will do for mankind, but will

give a reasonable plan of bringing such a state of things about, this paper is anxious to print it. Everything is an idea first, but the difference between the idealism of Marx and Jefferson consists in this. Jefferson could draft a set of laws that would establish democracy. No socialist seems to be able to give even a hint of such laws as would establish socialism. Carl Marx, after long chapters of idealistic theorising, when he comes to the point of transferring the world from the present system to one of socialism, jumps over a generation and tells what a happy condition has resulted. That is the universal practice among socialists. Where has Blatchford proposed the enactment of a single law? He simply dreams beautiful dreams. I earnestly hope that you will write such an article. I am not the sort of man that you hint that I am. I am anxious to know what is best for mankind. I have earnestly sought in the authoritative works on socialism a solution. I have not knowingly misrepresented them. If the sum of their teaching is not what I said it was, it is because I fail to understand what the writers mean.

It may seem incredible to a man who has long resided in a prairie town, and has only been able to secure a few pamphlets, or paper bound books on socialism that one should say that he had read 300 books on socialism. But if he will go into the great library at Washington or even to the university library at Lincoln and see the shelves filled with them, he would not think it an incredible statement at all. Since 1874, when the present writer took up the study of political economy and sociology he has probably read nearer 1000 socialist books than 300. In not one of these books has he ever seen a plan or a set of laws outlined that would transfer this or any other nation from the present system to the common ownership of property. If there is any such book published, you will confer a great favor, not only on the writer, but on thousands of other students of economic problems, by giving the title and name of the publisher.

Yours truly,
 T. H. TIBBLES.

Henry Waterson's advice to the democrats is so sound and good that it is commended by the whole gold bug press and is reprinted in full in most of them. The State Journal gave three or four columns of it last Sunday.

Mr. Blackstone, president of the Alton & Chicago railroad says in his annual report that coal is mined all along his line and placed on the cars at a cost of sixty cents a ton. By the time it gets to Lincoln it costs the consumer about \$6. a ton, an increase of about 1000 per cent. Oh! yes these railroads are charitable concerns and their only aim is to build up the country.

THE BEE'S SLANDERS.

In another article it is said that the Bee refused to publish a retraction of an infamous falsehood it published about the auditor's office. It will be remembered that the Bee printed this charge in the most prominent place on its front page and illustrated it with a half tone reproduction of a written letter. When the next issue of the paper appeared it was looked over two or three times and no retraction was discovered, but after the article referred to was in print, on one of the inside pages of the Bee, hidden away where not one reader in a hundred would ever see it, there was found a few lines. That is as bad or worse than no retraction at all, so no effort was made to correct the item. It is still substantially true to say that the Bee did not retract. That shows that the intention of the Bee was to slander and malign auditor and that it had no desire to publish the truth at all.

Last week the Sterling Sun seemed to be inclined to abandon the old tactics of the republican party and publish a paper containing some arguments and a few facts. But it has gone back to the old way, backsliden, fallen from grace

Food Caused Pain

Catarrh of the Stomach Cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"I was taken sick about a year ago with catarrh of the stomach. At times I would have a ravenous appetite and at other times could not eat. My food caused me excruciating pain. I was running down so fast I had to stop work. My friends urged me to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. I did so and soon began to feel better. The disagreeable symptoms of disease gradually passed away and flesh and strength returned. I owe it all to Hood's Sarsaparilla." MARY L. CUMMINGS, North Brookfield, Mass. Remember Hood's Sarsaparilla

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