

Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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The republican majority in the Legislature profess undying love for the soldier, but when they came to show it, they sent their thanks to the boys in Manila and refused to send them a small sum of money to relieve in the least their hardships.

The populists in the United States senate have debated the corporation schemes to lay a subsidized cable across the Pacific ocean. If they had never done anything else, that would save the people more than it has cost to keep them there.

The Arena thinks that the breaking down of a platform under Bryan while he was speaking against imperialism was "omnious." The editor has probably had some of its occult, psychological experts to work on that matter and speaks by the card.

The trusts are formed to give better services and cheaper goods to the poor, the railroads want to be allowed to pool for the benefit of the shippers, and McKinley wants to conquer the Filipinos for the good of their souls. They are all too good for this wicked world, so let us get rid of them.

The populist party demands that what a man produces should belong to him individually. The socialist party demands that what a man produces should belong to the community. If there is anyone who cannot see the difference between these two propositions, he could not see the difference between daylight and darkness.

When McKinley went broke and according to Rev. Sam Jones was no longer fit for leadership, Kolsaat put up a lot of money so that it might qualify the pauper McKinley to keep in the race. Now McKinley is president, the gold bug Washington correspondents say that McKinley asked Kolsaat what he could do for him and the generous man replied that he wanted his brother appointed to the life office of judge of the federal court. Whereupon Billy Mason kicked up a row, made objections in the senate and did many naughty things. They say that Billy Mason is a "copperhead."

A writer for a Boston paper who has made a trip through New England says that the abandoned farms and desolation everywhere to be seen reminded him of his travels in the waste regions to be found in the Turkish Empire. That is what the gold standard has done for the most industrious and once thriving part of our country, but the subsidized press of that region has kept the people so completely in ignorance of the cause of their distress that most of them have been voting for the very things that caused it, and calling every one who tried to enlighten them socialists, anarchists, lunatics and such like loving names.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The editor of the Independent desires to say to the numerous correspondents of this paper, especially the socialists, that manuscript to insure publication must not be so badly written as to require copying before it is given to the compositors. All correspondents should make their manuscript legible. The time spent in deciphering had manuscript by compositors, when the union scale is paid, amounts to quite a sum during the week. One article sent in last week was written on the back of a poster and the lines were 12 1/2 inches long. That copy would have covered up the whole front of a type setting machine, or the whole cap case if set by hand. Two articles from socialists now lie on the editor's desk. They are written by good men and they should be allowed to express their convictions, but it is impossible to use the articles unless they are copied. The editor has more work than one man ought to do and cannot possibly copy articles of ten and twelve pages as much as he desires to let the socialists have their say. The editor is willing to capitalize, punctuate, paragraph, correct the spelling and grammar in a socialist's article, but when he has to spend ten minutes in trying to make out an illegibly written word, he loses his temper, and that is a very bad thing to happen to an editor of a weekly paper.

When answering advertisements mention Independent.

A BILLION AND A HALF.

The Independent some time ago called attention to the catch phrase adopted when the first billion dollar congress adjourned, and how the stupid following of the republican party went around saying: "Oh! this is a billion-dollar country." It was predicted that when the appropriations amounted to a billion and a half they would take up the old cry, which seemed so satisfying to the unthinking crowd that votes that ticket and say: "Oh! this is a billion and a half country." The prediction has been fulfilled sooner than was expected. The goldbug correspondent of the Chicago Record makes a long argument to prove that the appropriations of this congress will not be \$1,725,000,000, but only a billion and a half. He then says: "Eight years ago, when people criticised the list as a billion-dollar congress, Speaker Reed remarked that this was a billion-dollar country, and I suppose it is a fifteen-hundred-million dollar country now."

Without any doubt that will be perfectly satisfactory to the mass of the republican party. They have long since abandoned the labor of doing any thinking, and such a defense of the unparalleled saturnalia of extravagance which has been running riot at Washington for the last year will be deemed all that is necessary to say in defense of the impoverishment of the people. To just such depths as that has the republican following sunk.

"GOOD DEMOCRATS."

The Silver Knight claims that the rank and file of the democratic party in New York are as loyal to Jeffersonian principles as are the members of the party in any other state. If they are, they have a very poor way of showing it. First they tied up with Cleveland, then they took to Dave Hill and now they are under the thumb of Croker. There never was viler trio of plutocrats than these three men. They have run the democracy of New York for the last fifteen years. If there are any Jeffersonian democrats left in the state it is about time that they were letting themselves be known.

All that is necessary in New York to get full fellowship in the party is to say, "I am a democrat." Then he may defend the trusts, advocate the gold standard and support imperialism to his heart's content. He is a good democrat all the same.

WHAT ECONOMISTS SAY

An old pop in the northern part of the state writes to the editor of the Independent and asks what political economists say about tariffs and protection. The standard economists, those whose works are text books in the universities and colleges say that the creation of wealth rests largely upon the facilities with which exchanges can be made. As an illustration in the simplest form: Suppose that there is a community in which there is a shoemaker and a carpenter. Now a shoemaker can make a pair of shoes very quickly and well, but if the carpenter undertook the job it would take him a long time and then it would be poorly done. The carpenter could do more work in one day in the building of a house than a shoemaker could do in three, and the shoemaker could make more shoes in a week than the carpenter could do in a month. Now anything that would interfere with the facility with which the carpenter and shoemaker could exchange the products of their labor would obviously retard the production of houses and shoes. Any hindrance to exchanges retards production. All economists say that exchanges should not only be free, but governments should do all things possible to facilitate them. Any restriction put upon trade, whether in the way of tariffs or licenses has a tendency to retard the production of wealth by making exchanges costly and difficult. That is what the economists say.

THE MAIN QUESTION.

A great New York democratic daily puts up the following platform at the head of its editorial columns: First—Public ownership of public franchises. The values created by the community should belong to the community. Second—Destruction of criminal trusts. No monopolization of the national resources by lawless private combinations more powerful than the peoples government. Third—A graduated income tax. Every citizen to contribute to the support of the government according to his means, and not according to his necessities. Fourth—Election of senators by the people. The senate, now becoming the private property of corporations and bosses, to be made truly representative, and the state legislatures to be redeemed from recurring scandals. Fifth—National, state and municipal improvement of the public school system. As the duties of citizenship are both general and local, every government, general and local, should do its share toward fitting every individual to perform them. There is not a particle of doubt, that if driven to it, the money power would willingly compromise on such a platform but no populist will be fooled by such a shallow trick as that. All the public franchises in the whole union, including the railroads and telegraphs might be made the property of the government and still the common people could be made serfs and slaves to toil their lives away for the benefit of those who exact enormous tribute in interest

and taxes. Let the public franchises of this country be purchased and billions of dollars worth of bonds be issued to pay for them, bearing a fixed rate of interest and leave the control of the volume of money in the hands of the banks, or confine it to the output of gold, and there could be no surer way of making slaves of every toiler on the face of the earth.

The money power will agree to almost anything, if by it they can prevent an enlargement of the volume of money. That is the only thing that will ever bring permanent relief. That is the fundamental and paramount question. It is entirely ignored in the above platform. No, sir. You can't fool us that way.

MOODY VS. CHRIST.

For many years the common people by some sort of instinct have been feeling that Dwight Moody, the evangelist, was not genuine. He still holds his meetings, but the results as far as making the world better by making men permanently better, have amounted to but little. That the spirit of Christ who said: "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of heaven," and "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven," should be the controlling force in such a man is impossible. Compare these words of Christ's with the following recent utterance of Mr. Moody and then answer honestly if it is possible. Mr. Moody said: "I want to say that I know Mr. Rockefeller, know of his great soul, and goodness, his generous, his wonderful charities, hundreds of thousands every year. Why, he only gives one hour a day to his business. But you can't make me say anything against such men. I consider them great and worthy men. I know nearly all of them. I know the Vanderbilts, Mrs. Sheperd—now there's one of the finest women in the world—and the Goulds, Mark Hopkins, C. P. Huntington."

Now these men whom Mr. Moody praises are not only rich men, but they have obtained their riches by bribery, corruption and force. The public document rooms at Washington are full of official, written and printed records, establishing their guilt. These are the kind of men that Christ denounced in the most vehement words. But Mr. Moody considers them "worthy men." There is a very great difference between Mr. Moody and Jesus of Nazareth. The difference is so great that it is plainly, Moody vs. Christ.

PINGREE'S REPUBLICANISM.

The republicans had one of their frequent feasts the other night at Detroit. Gov. Pingree was one of the speakers and he found himself in pretty close quarters. The following is part of his remarks:

My republicanism has occasionally been called in question, because I have declined to promote the interests of certain men and of certain measures on the ground of party expediency.

The republican party came into power as the party of the common people. The welfare of an enslaved race was the chief cause of its organization. The principle of equal rights for all found its fullest expression in the greatest of all Americans—Abraham Lincoln. The republican party was formed to make men free and equal. Its vote came from the farmer and his sons, from the villages and the country districts of the various states. They did not come from the overcrowded portions of our great cities where the voters were controlled by the bosses. Republican majorities came from the states that afterwards furnished patriotic soldiers. So long as the great questions growing out of the civil war remained unsettled the republican party was controlled by men chosen to represent the people.

But in time these questions disappeared and other questions demanded attention. Problems of trade and finance, and questions of administration came up. Meantime wealth increased and capital and labor drifted into each other. Gradually the men of wealth dropped into the republican party. Corporations found their interests well cared for by the men who were chosen to the legislative bodies as republicans.

Now this has been going on so long and so steadily that it has become notorious. Old republicans have been held in line because they could do nothing else. The democratic party, with its well known capacity for blundering, made it impossible by its own acts for any prudent and thoughtful business man to join it.

All the men who had schemes, and all the corporations who wanted privileges joined the republican party, expecting that party to bear their burdens and to serve them. This has been going on for years, but it cannot last forever, gentlemen.

Already the enormous business of this nation has passed into the control of gigantic trusts and transportation combinations. I need not submit any proof of this. You have only to look around you. The men in this room know that this is true. But what is to come of it all?

The question must arise in every man's mind: Why does Pingree stay in the republican party? How can a man who describes it as he does, satisfy his conscience by working to build up a party that is inimicable to every interest of the great mass of people? Pingree and Pingree alone carried the state of Michigan for the republican party at the last election. What has been the result? The legislature is under the control of the corporations of the state and it has sent to the senate for six years a supporter of the gold standard, the trusts and the corporations. All this is the direct result of Gov. Pingree remaining in the republican party. If he had united himself with the reformers of the

state, an anti-corporation, anti-trust man could have been sent to the United States senate and a legislature could have been elected that would have taxed the corporations according to the plan that Pingree himself has been advocating. It is no use to talk reform and aid and sustain the enemies of reform. That has proved in Gov. Pingree's case, to be the most effective way to sustain the trusts and corporations.

The wise acres in congress under the advice of McKinley are going to stop the "endless chain" by redeeming all the outstanding obligations of the United States in pure gold. There is more than \$900,000,000 of these obligations and not to exceed \$600,000,000 of gold in the whole country to do it with. There is wisdom for you. How will the gold be obtained? Sell bonds to Europe and make slaves of the whole American people for generations to come.

There has been a demand in several country weeklies of the republicans persuasion that a new leaf should be turned over by the dailies. It was claimed that they should, once in a while at least, try to make an argument and not devote the whole of their space to invective and the calling of names. So one day last week the State Journal tried to make an argument. The title it gave to its article was "Flapdoodle." No criticism is made of that head line for it is very appropriate, but then it went to talking about "tinker's damns" and things of that sort. That was the best it could do in the way of constructing an argument and it is to be commended for doing the very best it could. Perhaps some day it will try again.

McKINLEY PROPERTY.

How McKinley property struck New York is shown by the following news item taken from one of the New York great dailies. There is no doubt about the truth of it, for all of the papers in the city contained substantially the same statement:

"The number of the poor people who were destitute and in need of aid during the storm has been estimated at from 60,000 to 100,000. The people of the city lost no time in coming to the assistance of these unfortunates and subscriptions were started which rose in two days to nearly \$5,000. The great newspapers organized relief parties and sent them out with food and coal. The Salvation army were among the most active workers and being familiar with the work knew just where the assistance would be most needed. The police were ordered to give shelter to all who applied for it, and to exercise special vigilance in seeing that no one was allowed to be overcome by the storm within the different precincts. Governor Roosevelt ordered all the national guard armories in the city heated and thrown open to the homeless. It was by such quick and energetic efforts that a great deal of suffering was prevented."

To call a city prosperous when a hundred thousand of its inhabitants are always within one or two days of starvation is the supremest folly. There is not a city in the union where there are not scores of thousands who if their work failed for a few days, will be in a state of starvation. The blind party prejudice that will insist in calling that state of things "prosperity" has never been seen in the world before. Nothing but the besotted ignorance of the republican following can account for it.

PROTECTING THE FOREIGNER.

All of the big trusts except five have been organized under the protection of the Dingley and McKinley bills. Without the prohibitory tariffs they could not exist. The question is whether it will be possible to drive into the thick skulls of the ignorant following of the republican party that when a trust is constantly shipping its products to foreign countries and selling them at half the prices that it sells them to the people of the United States, that the protection of the Dingley bill is for the benefit of foreigners and the spoliation of Americans. For more than fifteen years the American manufacturers have been selling goods all over Europe at about half what the American has had to pay for them. The only defense that has ever been made when the facts have been proved beyond dispute, was to say that the stuff sent to Europe was only the surplus stock left over on this side. That those manufacturers always so manage to have an immense stock left over every year—this year amounting to millions—seems to have no effect at all upon the average republican dolt. He will vote the ticket straight any how.

McKinley it seems is to get his army of a 100,000 men, with a proviso that all but 40,000 shall be mustered out in July, 1901. The volunteers in Manila will be held until these regulars can be enlisted, drilled and shipped to the Philippines.

Boston is waking up. The men of that town are beginning to think and hold meetings. They have got along about as far as the Alliance was in 1890.

SENATORIAL SITUATION.

The Independent has been held back half a day in the hope that the republicans would settle on a man for senator so we could give the news in this week's issue. But it was all for naught. They don't seem to be any nearer a choice than when they began to ballot once a day a month or so ago. It was given out that they had at last agreed to hold a caucus and settle the matter there. A lot of maneuvering was done by the aspirants, rules were made, altered and amended until they finally agreed. Some of them were to vote a secret ballot and some an open one. Last night they went in a caucus and cast nearly a hundred ballots and wound up just where they started except that Thompson gained three votes, giving him a total of sixteen, and Hayward lost two and Webster lost one. Field had five and Adams, Lamberton, and Talbot one each. What will happen next no man knows.

DANGER IN IT.

Farmers have been sending in petitions for the passage of Peter Jensen's bill H. R. 421. They have been deceived by the title of the bill, which is for the regulation and manufacture of imitation butter, imitation cheese and dairy products. Section 4 of that bill contains more bad and infamous legislation than was ever heretofore crowded into one act. It gives to the accredited officers of the food commission more arbitrary powers than was ever conferred on any set of men before under any government civilized or barbarous. Send in your protests against the bill. The bill that the farmers want is H. R. 161. That provides for just what is needed and nothing more. This Jensen bill is the most dangerous piece of legislation ever attempted in this state.

Prof. Herron is getting around onto solid ground. In his last lecture in Chicago he laid down some fundamental principles with all the precision of one of the old economists. Being a thoroughly honest man, we have always believed that he would get hold of the fundamental truths and when he did he would be a power in the land. Nearly always when a minister begins to investigate social problems, and takes his first look at the horrid injustice in the commercial and political world, the first thing that he does is to take a dive into socialism. A little more investigation generally puts him on the right track.

Japan went to the gold standard a while ago and the same results followed there that has been the sequel to every attempt of the kind in the whole history of the world. Japan is in the midst of panic and such suffering as has never been known in that country—not even in the days before she attempted to adopt the ways of civilization. Meantime Mexico, caring nothing about "party" "sound money", or any of those things which the gold bugs tell us is essential to salvation goes right along in a course of prosperity that is the envy of the whole world except the house of Rothschilds and their supporters. Mexico is on the silver standard.

The legislature has dropped the Judge Scott impeachment case. The thing was too hot and the republicans concluded they would not burn their fingers trying to handle it.

CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH.

CONCENTRATION of wealth has never taken place in any nation without destroying the people that permitted it. Every man acquainted with the history knows that to be a fact. This nation has started on the same road and there has been a more rapid concentration of wealth in the last few years than at any time in all the history of the past. Great standing armies always accompany it. There is not a republican paper in the land that will openly advocate such a policy, but they all advocate and uphold the methods that bring it about. The question is: Should the

concentration of wealth in a few hands be stopped, and should it be more equally distributed among all the people? That is the fundamental thing in all this reform movement.

Every man who will think for five minutes cannot avoid the conclusion that the only way to distribute the wealth of the country more evenly among the people is to control the volume of money. Of what do the great fortunes of the multimillionaires mainly consist? For the most part it is pieces of paper containing a promise to pay money, that is bonds and other securities. Congress could distribute one half of that wealth in one day among the producers and taxpayers by doubling the volume of money. It then would require just one-half as much of labor to pay the interest and principle on those as it does now and the other half would be left in the hands of labor. That is the way to stop the concentration of wealth and distribute it more equitably among all the people. There is no other way.

While the great dailies of New York are filled with the glorification of McKinley and gold standard prosperity, the commercial bodies of that city are appointing committees to enquire into the cause of the decay of trade. The trade of New York, has not only not kept pace with the growth of population, but has actually decreased for the last eight years. That is just what all economists told them would happen, but their nut-ton headed business men preferred to listen to the sycophantic voice of the agents of the house of Rothschilds. What they sowed, they will have to reap.

Hardy's Column.

City Candidates—Canteens in the Army—Insurance—The University Provided Well For—General Thayer to be Pitted—We Can See Now Garden and Flowers.

City candidates begin to loom up by the score. Go and ask Thompson who he wants and rest there, is my advice to anxious office-seekers.

The canteen bill proposed by the lower house of congress should be passed by the senate and signed by the president. It prohibits the sale of red liquor to our soldier boys from traveling tent saloons, called canteens. The president could knock them out if he dared.

Just now the air is full of insurance company examiners. Why not let the government appoint insurance examiners as it does national bank examiners and let one examination answer for all.

We rejoice that abundant provision has been made for the support of our state university. With judicious management the institution is bound to tread close upon the heels of Ann Arbor and Cornell. We are not in sympathy with the notion that prevails in some colleges, that two recitations a week is all that a teacher should be required to hear, and the balance of his time given to preparation. A teacher who is qualified to teach mathematics should be able to teach any lesson between addition and the calculus without much preparation. We do not believe in paying a teacher or officer good wages and then hire

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