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The populist press without a single exception is commending Gov. Poynter for vetoing the court commissioners bill. All men admire a man with backbone.

The republicans have descended to the point that they defy Mark Hanna—really make a god out of him. At any rate they are all the time saying that "God directs McKinley."

The great protection duffers do not seem to be firmly convinced that "the foreigner pays the tax" all the time. They are inclined to make an exception in regard to the white paper.

If there ever was a Micawber president that man is Mark Hanna McKinley. He has no policy, but sits around waiting for something to turn up. The result will be that he will be turned down at the next election.

If the World-Herald had wanted to maintain a party in its editorials, when the house voted to investigate the supreme judges it would have had a double headed, double column editorial the next day demanding that they all resign forthwith. But it didn't.

The Omaha platform declares that "wealth belongs to him who creates it," and to that this writer is going to stick until the last shot is fired. And all the dreamers may go on talking and declaring that wealth should belong to the community if they get any satisfaction out of that sort of thing, but here is one that will stick to the Omaha platform.

There is no doubt at all of the fact that if you pick out your men, a socialistic colony can do wonders while they remain in the prime of life. When they get old and cannot work and the younger generation has not yet arrived at the age of full dissection or full productive power, there will not be such good times. These colonies generally last through one generation, seldom through two generations.

Some of the half baked populist that have been talking middle-of-the-road half of the time and the other half denouncing fusion and attempting to organize a new party, have now come to the conclusion that they are willing to fuse if a new name is adopted, with the democrats or any body else. The fusion under a new name would be all right but under the old name it will be all wrong. Before they write any more they had better go and lie in the sun until they are dry behind the ears.

The State Journal had a very amusing article on the exposure of the nepotism of the supreme judges. It says that it is a long established custom. It did not think so when it claimed that Judge Greene had committed an awful offense because he had appointed his son-in-law his private secretary, or when it came down on Cornell for appointing a nephew to an unimportant office. But seriously, didn't commissioner Ryan a little overdo the custom when he appointed a nephew, (C. W. Winters) a brother-in-law, (J. W. De-weese) and a son all to office?

Some of the papers are talking about the great sensation uncaused by the World-Herald in regard to the disclosures printed in it concerning the supreme court. All that was well known to the populists of the state, it having been written in the little political hand book sent out by the populist state committee two years ago, called Nebraska Redeemed. When a democratic paper comes up to the populist standpoint two years afterward, it is great sensation for democrats not doubt, but not much of one for those who read the populist weeklies.

Harpers are the most heartless, plutocratic publishing house in these United States of America. Even in their purely literary publications—or what they advertise as such—they are continually thrusting their peculiar views and exhibiting their hatred for the common people. In one of the last issues of their journal weekly, they insert a story, the object of which is to prejudice their youthful readers against all organized labor by making a man who strikes against a cut in wages or for higher wages to appear to be a villain of the darkest kind. This way of propagating plutocracy is the vilest of all ways.

NO "HOLD UPS."

Brother Ebbeson of the St. Paul Phonograph has the following kindly criticism of the Independent:

"The Independent is a paper loyal and faithful to the populist party and its officers. In this spirit it defends Mr. Cornell, and thinks it performs a party duty by so doing. It finds that Mr. Cornell has taken no money belonging to the state, that while it may be true that his examiners have 'held up' insurance companies, these examiners were democrats, and the companies were 'blood-sucking concerns in the east who can pay their officers a hundred thousand dollars a year and then have hundreds of thousands to contribute to a fund to down Bryan.'"

Now if a single insurance company had ever been "held up" that criticism would be just. But there never was a company held up. The companies all deny that they were and the committee of republicans if they could have by any means found or manufactured any evidence to sustain such a charge would not have failed to do so. The trouble with Cornell's democratic examiners, aside from their silly gush and promising to make the auditor a present and then saying that they could not do it, was that they did not have sense enough to charge the regular fees. They charged, less than one-half the amount that any qualified accountant would charge. If Cornell had "held up" any insurance companies, as much as they deserve to be scolded, the Independent would have been the first to denounce him. But he never "held up" a company and not one of his examiners ever "held up" one. If the Independent had denounced Cornell it would have committed a crime against good morals and common decency.

INSURANCE HOLD UPS.

Some people in Nebraska have been weeping over the hold ups of the insurance companies until their eyes are red and they can't sleep nights any more, but they have never given a thought to the manner in which the insurance companies have been holding up whole United States year after year. They have no tears to shed over the woes of an over-taxed people. But the poor insurance companies! Oh that is awful. When an insurance company starts out on the hold up business they make it tell. All they have to do is to call on the judges to resign. When the news came that the courts had enjoined the state of Texas from collecting the taxes on foreign insurance companies there were no tears shed and the democratic papers did not demand the resignation of any body. The insurance companies had held up the state of Texas. But that was all right. One insurance company has held up the people of Lincoln until it owns a large slice of the town. That is all right too. Nobody weeps over that. They don't appoint any investigating committees to look into it. Haven't a few people in this state been making everlasting fools of themselves? Fancy how the insurance magnates get into a corner and laugh until their sides ache.

A HARD JOB.

The demand made by the republican leaders upon their members who were upon the committee to investigate whether any of the state officers rode on passes and then charged mileage to the state, required an amount of cheek that none but a machine republican ever possessed. The two gentlemen upon whom the duty fell almost failed at the last moment. To write a report and say that not a fusion state officer had been proved guilty and then argue that because Holcomb and Edmisten had refused to answer questions which they had no authority ask, was evidence that they "might" have been guilty was a pretty hard duty. But when they came to reflect that the vouchers for their mileage at ten cents a mile each way had been presented and paid and were on file in the auditor's office, and while they knew that every man in the legislature believed that they each had ridden to Lincoln and back on passes themselves and that it could be proven beyond contradiction that they were just from the cars where they had ridden on passes and charged the mileage that the law would allow, was almost too much even for them. But they finally came up to the scratch and did it. "Satan rebuking sin" was on every man's tongue, and they knew it. It required an awful amount of cheek but they managed to get through with it after a fashion. No wonder that their report fell flat. There could not possibly be any other fate for it. It was not "Satan rebuking sin." It was Satan maliciously maligning honest men.

A MEASLEY CREATURE.

If some of these preachers would study their bibles a little instead of spending their time in reading the Sunday newspapers, they would know a great deal more than they do. A plutocratic sermon that was preached in New York last Sunday by a \$10,000 a year preacher shows that he has no inkling of the economic truths announced by Jesus. That preacher thinks there is no insupportable binding all the classes of society in one brotherhood, that a part of society can isolate itself and that God intended it to be so. That preacher could never have read the passage that says: "For none of us liveth to himself,

and no man dieth to himself." Furthermore that preacher could not think, or when he sat down to eat after that great intellectual effort and took up a piece of bread, he would have seen in that piece of bread a refutation of his whole sermon. He would have reflected upon the long collaboration of all kinds of men whose efforts at production were represented in that piece of bread, the baker, the railroad, the miller, the roller, the farmer, and an indefinite number of other classes of society all bound together as it were in that piece of bread. A plutocratic preacher is about as measley a creature as God ever permitted to live.

TAXING MORTGAGES.

The logic of the plutocrats and the defenders of the extortioners is often exceedingly amusing. It is a sort of obfuscating in itself, for it is not worth the money paid for it. The money lender ought to get something better for the price he pays than what is usually put out in his defence. There was an example of that kind of writing the other day in the State Journal. It undertook to assault the taxing of mortgages and this is the way it did it.

"So the mortgagor is the man most injured. First, in the killing of the competition of outside money lenders who have retired from the bidding, giving the local capitalists a monopoly of the business. Thus the local capitalists are able to put their actual interest up to from 10 to 12 per cent. To this actual interest they add the taxes, raising it according to the annual assessments to 13 per cent or higher and compel the borrower to renew the mortgage annually so as to meet every assessment with a corresponding rise in the rate of interest."

According to that logic the local money lenders are the biggest lot of fools to be found in the state. Every one knows that every one of them not only fight the taxing of mortgages but are always handy with a lobby to defeat any such legislation. These money lending fools actually spent time and money to defeat legislation that would increase their rates of interest from six to seven per cent! Could a bigger lot of fools be found any where? The truth is that they are not that sort of idiots. They know that in working for the defeat of a law to tax mortgages they are working to escape their share of taxation. The State Journal logic would not fool an intelligent kitten.

DIRECT TAXATION.

If some man will organize a society to press the doctrine of direct taxation, he will do an equal or greater benefit to the people of this country than those who have been agitating for direct legislation. Indirect taxation is wholesale robbery, and the awful drain would never be submitted to if the same amount of money was demanded from each tax payer and he was forced to pay it over as he does some of the taxes which he now pays. Even a small raise in direct taxation always produces a protest and the law makers never attempt to except when a dire necessity exists. But when they raise money by indirect taxation they will pile it on, million upon million without hesitation.

If the \$1,500,000 of money appropriated by the last congress was to have been raised by direct taxation no such saturnalia of extravagance would have been indulged. Dr. Lyman Abbott has figured out that each family will have to contribute on the average \$180.00 to pay that amount. But when it is considered that thousands of families are exempted by law—bond holders, owners of franchises and many others—it will be seen that the average to the family of those who do pay is very much greater. It simply grinds the life out of the producing classes, none of whom can escape the heavy burden.

Under our constitution direct taxation can never be enforced. The first thing to be done is to agitate for an amendment of that instrument and it ought to be begun at once. A plank on that subject should be added to the national platform of the populist party.

Direct legislation is sound in principle and has in it those underlying truths upon which our government is founded. But the adoption of it will not bring any revolution in society. Dakota has it but it will not bring relief from the ills that have afflicted the people up there in a sudden way. The money power will still grind and at the end of each year the farmer will have to give up most of the wealth that he has created to the usurer, the tax gatherer, the railroad corporations and the trusts. It will be just as it was before.

It is related that a justice of the peace in Posey county, Indiana, once listened to the evidence in a case where a man was accused of stealing a hog. Three citizens, good and true, swore that they saw the man steal the hog. The young lawyer put on the stand six citizens who swore point blank that they did not see the man steal the hog. The justice declared that the weight of evidence was on the side of the accused and discharged him. Six men swore that they didn't see him steal and only three that they did. That is the way that the McKinley papers put the evidence in the rotten best inquiry. Every man that they can get to swear that he didn't see the return beef is put on the stand, but those who swear that they did see it are taken no account of whatever.

DISINTERESTED ADVICE.

If Bryan would only stay at home and carefully read every morning the editorials in the State Journal he would learn just how he could so manage the next campaign so as to completely down Mark Hanna and the republican party. The Journal out of the kindness of its heart is all the time giving him good advice upon that subject. The trouble is that Bryan is away so much he don't get to see it. The Journal has been very much troubled over that telegram that Bryan sent to Perry Belmont asking him if he had come back into the democratic party. It thinks that was a very unwise thing for Bryan to do and that it will injure his project of throwing the republican party out of power for which the Journal is very sorry indeed. The Journal thinks that Bryan is ruining his chances to defeat the republicans because he will not fraternize with the gold bug democrats. It advises Bryan to so manage things as to keep the gold bug democrats in the party and not drive them away. It thinks that if Bryan will only do that, he will surely down the party to which the state Journal belongs. Now it is very unfortunate that Bryan is away and does not see this good advice—this disinterested solicitude of the Journal—and is thereby losing his chance to destroy the republican party, Mark Hanna and the whole outfit.

A STRANGE IDEA.

In several of the populist papers during the last week there has appeared this sentence: "We are not defending the state officers." If you are not what are you publishing a populist paper for. A populist officer is constantly assailed day in and day out the whole year through by the plutocratic press, and in our ignorance of the duty of a populist newspaper man, we have always thought that one of the duties of a populist paper was to stand up and defend the men that we have selected as office holders. No set of men have been so lied about, maligned and defamed as have these men who have given the state of Nebraska the purest, best and most economical state government that it ever had. It is a strange idea indeed that it is not the duty of a populist paper to defend the populist state officers. If some of these editors really believe that it is not their duty—which is very much to be doubted, they having written without due consideration of the effect of their words—they had better sell out to some one who has different ideas on that subject.

THE SILVER DOLLAR.

Sometimes a fellow is very badly mistaken when he feels sure he is right. That is what happened to this writer once. He used to argue with the economists who assembled at Washington in 1898 to the effect that if the Sherman act was repealed and silver fell to 50 or 60 cents an ounce, that the disparity between the market value of the silver dollar and its legal tender value would be such a demonstration to every man that all the value money had was a law made value, that it would be a great assistance in educating the people. When the people saw that a silver dollar was always worth just as many cents as a gold dollar, although the value of the silver in it was only 40 or 50 cents, it would be such a "convincer" that the whole people would begin to see the truth. The economists all said "no," whereas he was prone to upbraid them. But they were right. Any number of mullet headed republicans still go around claiming that the silver dollar is at par because it is redeemable in gold.

TAKE IN THE SWAG.

When a national bank breaks, then the Washington cormorants swoop down upon it followed by a host of lawyers and the result is if there is anything left or the stock holders are worth anything, they have a rich thing of it. Not long since the national bank of Illinois shut its doors and a receiver was appointed. The receiver got \$10,000 a year and his assistant \$8,000. That was the Washington part of the swag. One firm of lawyers were paid \$72,000 for one year's service and have in a bill for \$12,000 more. Little Eckles' brother, who was Cleveland's comptroller, had his hand in for a nice slice of the booty and there was not money enough left to settle up. Then the Washington end took hold again and levied an assessment on the stockholders of 100 per cent on their stock. That order will produce \$300,000 more of swag. Oh! yes. This is the best banking system the world ever saw.

Another new party is to be organized. Its headquarters is down in Boston. This party advocates the taking all taxes off of land. They say that as land is not created by labor that it is not in any sense wealth and should never be taxed. They declare that taxes now fall almost entirely upon labor. That one set of taxpayers after another shift their taxes until at last they all rest upon land. They further say that land is the source of all wealth by the application of labor and that to tax land is to retard the production of wealth. The Independent suggests that these cheap suits with the Henry George men and fix up a party, so that we may have peace in the future.

Web. McNall was insurance commissioner of Kansas, occupying the same relation to the insurance companies in Kansas that Auditor Cornell did in

Nebraska. McNall went after the insurance companies with a red hot poker from the day he took office. He instructed his examiners to charge those cormorants \$25 a day, railroad fare and hotel bills from the time they left home until they got back. He shut some of them out of Kansas altogether and made others pay up losses that they had refused to pay and in fact made it awfully hot for them. Now there is a universal demand from both the democratic and populist parties that Web. McNall shall be the next fusion candidate for governor. Those Kansas democrats and populists seem to have some snap in them. They don't lay down and whine whenever one of their discharged employees—and they have had several of them—begins to howl, and they don't re-echo every charge that the republican press makes against one of their office holders.

Utah and Delaware both failed to elect senators and will have to get along with one each for the next two years. As far as the party is concerned it is a stand off. California and Pennsylvania are still balloting away without result and they may fail to elect. Nebraska has two railroad attorneys to represent her, neither of whom could come within 10,000 of an election if the people had the deciding of it. It makes one tired to even think of the way the United States senate is gotten together. When populism gets in power the whole thing will be changed pretty quick.

Since the above was written the California legislature has adjourned without electing.

There is a fellow up in Chicago organizing a party to establish what he calls "self executive laws" whatever that may be; there is another set who are organizing a party in Indiana called the farmers party, there are the men who want a party to take all taxation off land; there are the Wharton Barker tailenders trying to steal the populist name and a score of others all dissatisfied with this Mark Hanna McKinley administration, every one of them for organizing a new party. All that is to Mark Hanna's liking. Anything will suit him that will keep the dissatisfied and poverty stricken from voting the populist ticket.

A DIRTY TRICK.

Speaker Clark held the resolution to investigate the supreme court four days before he obeyed the order of the house to appoint a committee and when he did appoint it he violated every rule of parliamentary law and common decency by leaving the mover of the motion, Mr. Sturgis, off the committee altogether. But the height of impropriety was reached when Speaker Clark appointed two lawyers who practice before the judges who are to be investigated, and who were opposed to making any investigation at all. On the word of a discharged employee, the whole republican party reared up on end and demanded the investigation of the auditor's office, but when it comes to investigating the republican wing of the state government they don't want any of it. Such a set of hypocrites never disgraced this world before.

THE JENSEN BILL.

If that Jensen bill passes the people will wish that they had never had a legislature at all. There is more possibilities of hoodie in it than was ever contained in one act since legislation was first invented. Conservative estimates of the amount of money that can be taken out of the people by its provisions place it at not less than a million dollars. As a protector of trusts it would make old Rockefeller smile. As an inequitable proceeding it would give pointers to the czar's chief of police. As a hold-up process it would beat the old Jensen James gang two to one. Whatever the legislature may do it is safe to say that such a law will never be able to pass the present governor's scrutiny.

TAILENDERS.

If the republicans can succeed in their plans they will keep the United States forever trailing at the tail end of civilization. There is not a civilized nation on earth today that does not own in whole or in part its railroads, telegraphs, its telephones or provide for savings banks where the poor can deposit their little accumulations. The republican party, fifty years behind the times in everything that affects the public good under the new modern conditions that have arisen, fights every one of these things with the same bitterness that has distinguished mossbacks ever since history began. The other day the English parliament appropriated \$10,000,000 to establish a system of telephones for the benefit of the British people. This they did, although the charge for telephones in London is only \$85.00 a year, while in New York it is \$240.00. Partisan prejudice and not common sense seems to be the distinguished characteristic of republican leaders as well as of the motley board of ignorance that makes up the majority of their voting force. They all seem to be satisfied to be the tailenders of civilization.

McNALL ALL RIGHT.

The Kansas News, one of the leading populist papers of Kansas, since the republican governor came in stands up for Web. McNall after the following fashion:

Webb McNall has been removed to give place to a hungry incompetent. McNall was one of the best officers Kansas ever had, and was a money saver to every man who carries insurance. Warden Landis of the penitentiary is also on the list for dismissal. In total disregard of fairness or justice, Governor Stanley acts as judge jury and executioner.

News of the Week

The foreign war that McKinley is carrying on resulted in a long list of killed and wounded—averaging about twenty each day. In the Philippines it is continual fighting all the time. The result appears to be, after the most gallant conduct by our brave boys, that the Filipinos have been driven back some twenty miles, suffering much heavier losses than they were able to inflict upon our troops. Private letters begin to arrive describing the first fight which occurred more than a month ago in which the First Nebraska and its gallant colonel bore such a conspicuous part. The regiment covered itself with glory that day. The colonel was in the front all the time and personally directed every movement. Everything had been prepared before hand and every man and officer knew his place and took it on the first sound of the bugle. The medical department was at the firing line and prepared to attend immediately to the wounded. There was no Santiago business about that fight.

Great disturbances have broken out in Cuba in and around Havana. There has been something that resembled very much a pitched battle in the streets of

"He That is Warm Thinks All So."

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