

Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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This white man's burden is getting to be dreadfully heavy.

The farmers fill our university with their sons and daughters and the cities fill our jails and penitentiary with criminals.

Some of the cranks have gone so far in their craze for organizing new parties that they are now talking of a non-partisan party.

Italy does not seem able to stand the strain of the gold standard any longer. At any rate the authorities there have made arrangements for the issue of a large amount of silver.

A soldier in the Philippines writes to his friends expressing the hope that this war will close before McKinley has the chance to buy another lot of rebellious niggers for \$20,000,000.

The reason why Norval made the confession that surprised the republican investigators was that he knew that the documents were on file in the treasurer's office to prove the truth of the charge.

Dewey has never asked but one favor of the authorities at Washington and that was refused. He asked that the few Chinese who were aboard the ships and who enlisted, knowing that there would be a fight, be allowed to come into the United States as a reward for the faithful performance of duty on the occasion of the battle of Manila bay.

Plutocratic political management now consists in the application of the principle, "divide and conquer." So the leaders busy themselves in the organization of new parties under all sorts of names. They are all well satisfied that if all those who are opposed to the money power, McKinley and Hannaism, should get together and vote one ticket there would be no hope to them.

Captain Ashby in his very readable article claims he has discovered the law that the Independent asked the socialists to draft. That law was enunciated nearly 2,000 years ago, but the trouble about it is its enforcement.

The city of Glasgow, Scotland, cleaned out a large part of the dirtiest portion of that city and erected municipal dwellings where 7000 of the poor are comfortably housed, at very moderate rents. In this country, controlled by Mark Hanna and the trusts, the tumble-down rookeries that the poor are forced to inhabit pay bigger rents than the most palatial mansions in proportion to their cost.

Samuel Gompers, president of the Federation of Labor, points out how the labor unions can stop the craze for standing armies and the waste caused by the manufacture of war materials. He says that there is a movement on foot for a union of the organized labor of all countries, which when perfected, will be more effective than all the Czar and peace societies that ever existed. Labor unionists will refuse to work on war material.

Detroit is to own its street railways. A law has just been passed by the Michigan legislature that permits the city to buy out the corporations and let the city own them. The car of progress rolls onward, but Lincoln—poor Lincoln—must forever come along tagging at the tail end of the procession because an old mossback republican party is in power. As long as it holds power the city will be tied down and staked fast to the corporations.

Old Scott Whitney of Tecumseh, Nebraska, still has his war paint on. At least it would seem so for in writing to the Independent to renew his subscription he says: "Here's another one that will stick till the last gun is fired and then club them with the stock. Be of good cheer for 't is the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom," in spite of hell and high water. The enemy is making converts for us faster than we, ourselves, are making them just now, so rattle in the hot shot."

BETTER GO SLOW. Some of these democratic papers that have become so sanctified and holy that an ordinary pop is a criminal in their eyes had better go slow. Every one of them that has been in the dirty business of impugning the motives of the old guard of fighters in the reform press, were gold bugs just as long as they dared to be, in this state. When the populists were standing by Bryan, these fellows were beating him in their conventions and standing by Morton & Co. The nastiest fling that any of them have made was in the Plattsburgh Journal. It says: "Any democratic or populist paper that attempts to uphold or shield Cornell in the hope or expectation of securing a few insurance notices from the auditor's office shows itself to be unworthy of confidence or support."

Those ex-gold bugs who so recently have become sanctified in spots, cannot conceive that an editor can take a position and defend it simply because he thinks it right but must always be moved by the hope of boodle. They have so long been accustomed themselves, to run a paper in that way that they never imagine that it is possible to run one in any other way. The insinuations as far as the Independent is concerned is without the slightest foundation in fact. It is published right here by the side of the capitol building, yet all the patronage that it has received from the whole state house outfit during the year ending with our last issue, March 23, insurance notices, letter heads and everything, amounts to the magnificent sum of \$81.75 and much of the work has been at so low a price that there has not been a cent of profit in it. Instead of subsidizing the populist papers, it seems to be the policy of the state house officials to give the work to job houses or to democratic papers, and when that is not done, to beat down in price to the last cent or until they are told that the work is not wanted at such prices.

As far as the Independent is concerned, the position it has taken in regard to recent events, was taken because it was believed to be right. It is altogether more probable that its editor had a better knowledge of the facts, he being right on the ground and familiar with every office at the state house, than any democratic editor publishing a paper in a country town miles away. If these wholly sanctified democratic sals had wanted to keep up a parity in their saintliness, they would, when the supreme court investigation was ordered and before the evidence was submitted, have demanded that every one of them resign. But not one of them did it.

THE MAN OF SMALL MEANS IS GETTING SET DOWN ON PRETTY HARD BY ALL THE FELLOWS WHO RUN MCKINLEY'S CAMPAIGN. They got his fool vote and now they think that he is such a fool that he will vote for them anyhow. There is good ground for such a conclusion for if a man was such an idiot as to vote the republican ticket the last time, it is safe to say that he don't know enough to know when he is skinned. The Chicago bankers have refused to accept the accounts of men who have less than \$300 to deposit. If the poor man is afraid of burglars and insists upon it, the banker will take his money and charge the wage worker a dollar a month for keeping it for him. Meantime the bankers are all dead against postal savings banks. So many men showed themselves to be idiots by voting with the Mark Hanna machine that the bankers imagine that there will be no kick from them, because they don't know enough to kick. The bankers are about right. The more these unorganized wage workers are kicked the better they seem to like it. They will join with the railroad magnate or manufacturer any time to help down or organized labor. They will always vote to make serfs of themselves.

THE WORLD BY THE TAIL. The trusts seem to think they have the world by the tail, but about the time that it dawns on the minds of the mullet-headed republican voters that the once glorious sons of Uncle Sam have become a nation of hirelings, having, all told, about 3,000 bosses in the persons of the trust magnates, then things will be different. It takes a very long time and a lot of chiseling to get a new idea into the heads of the average republican voter, but by persistent efforts and much pounding and chiseling it can be done. When every productive industry is in the hands of the trusts, when every line of business is controlled by them, every American citizen will become a hireling, serving the trust managers for wages. There will be no more "business men" to hold conventions and advise the people to stand by the money power, for there will be no more business men. There will be only the trust magnates and the hirelings. Even the thickest headed republican business man will be able to comprehend in that day that he is not in it. Will the trusts have the world by the tail then? Hardly.

FATUOUSNESS. A Lincoln lady hands to the editor the following suggestions in regard to patriotism, which she says is the conclusion she arrived at after a study of

modern conditions. "There was a time when patriotism meant war—a man fighting for his country. Now patriotism means peace—a man is patriotic who works for peace. The enemy of his country is the man who urges it to go to war, for the things that were only obtainable formerly by war, can now be better obtained by peaceful means." The Independent will be glad to print a refutation of that statement if it is possible to refute it. Who will be the first to try it?

BORN PLUTOCRATS. Plutocracy is born in some and they seem to be unable to get rid of it. These men go about the streets with meanness hanging all over them in chunks as big as cabbage heads and don't dream that any one knows it. One of them the other day was denouncing wage workers as a sort of beasts without any human instinct about them. He said: "Look at my hands. The moment the bell taps every one of them will drop their tools. If a man has his hand raised he will not strike the blow on the iron for fear that he will work a second over time."

He was asked if it was true that none of his workmen ever worked over time and he at last, after much pressing, said that in a few instances they had, to finish a job they had in hand. Then he was asked if in all the years that he had been in business he had ever paid a workman one cent extra for the time after the bell rang and he was forced to answer that he had not. Then he was plainly informed that he, and not the workmen, was the beast, according to his own testimony. The truth was that the workmen had probably given him many dollars worth of labor every year without any return whatever except that he was denouncing them as "beasts."

ORGANIZED LABOR. Very often the populists do an injustice to labor organizations in the manner they speak of the labor vote. It must always be remembered that there are many thousands of laborers who are in no way connected with the organized labor, and when such men vote to make themselves slaves, it is not the fault of organized labor. To tell the truth about the whole matter there is not a plank in the populist platform that was not first advocated by organized labor. Nearly all the laws for the protection of the producers that are on the statute books got there through the persistent efforts of labor organizations. The populists should always give every encouragement possible to these organizations, help them to increase their numbers, defend them against the aggressions of the plutocratic courts and in their just demand for living wages. Not that they are always right, for they are men and as liable as all other men are, to sometimes be in the wrong, but they are governed by correct principles and nine times out of ten they are right.

BIRD DAY. Superintendent Jackson has issued a very pretty little 24 page pamphlet to help keep in mind bird and arbor day and stimulate interest in tree planting and the preservation of the wild birds. Men are often accused of being barbarous and women accredited with much better instincts, but if we remember the fondness that women exhibit for the plumage of dead birds, it will be seen that they, too, have a good deal of barbarism in their make up. This vanity causes the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of birds annually. The demand is so insistent for plumage to disfigure the ladies' hats, a disfigurement that rests solely upon their barbarous instincts, that many species of birds are about to become extinct. After a while, when every apple is worm specked, when it is almost impossible to raise a garden on account of the swarms of insects permitted to procreate unmolested because all the insectivorous birds have been killed so that their stuffed bodies and dried wings might be used on the ladies' hats, then when it is too late, legislatures will pass laws to protect birds and the women's clubs will take the matter up and write essays and hold Kensington teas, at which they will mourn over the death of the birds.

A great deal of curiosity has been excited of late as to who pays for the publication of Wharson Baker's middle-of-the-road paper. A few days ago six gentlemen accidentally met and were talking on various subjects when this question arose. Each one plead guilty of receiving a copy of the paper every week, but each also declared that it had been sent to him by Mr. Baker with the assurance that no bill would follow. No one who receives it hereabouts pays for it. It is sent to all free. The question still remains unanswered as to who pays the bills.

What McKinley's "criminal aggression" is costing us in precious lives and the wounding and mangling of the brave men from the west, is shown by the report sent out from the adjutant general's office at Washington. That list shows that since February 4, there has been 157 killed and 864 wounded. What has Nebraska gained by this awful sacrifice that McKinley has called upon her to make?

WHAT WE BELIEVE. The Independent still stands by the Omaha platform and defends the doctrine that "wealth belongs to him who creates it" and not to the indefinable thing called "the state" or to the community. It will stick to the doctrine that there are certain things that can be better accomplished by the government representing the whole people than by any private individual or corporation. It will also defend the proposition that there are many things that can better be done by the individual than under government direction and control. There are things that are in their nature private and cannot be put under public control without an upheaval in society such as the world has never seen and which would result in disaster to the whole human race. To undertake to make the supply of even one of our great cities a public function, would result in less than a month in anarchy and starvation. There are many things now under the control of private parties and corporations which are in their nature public functions, such as the railroads, the telegraphs, the telephones, street cars, lighting plants, water works and the express business. The Independent advocates the ownership of all of them by the government, but the government ownership of everything and the doctrine that what a man produces belongs to the state in which he shall have only a common interest with all the rest of the 70,000,000 of the people of this country it opposes. In other words the Independent is a populist and not a socialist paper.

TARIFF ROBBERY. After years of lying about the tariff the State Journal finally gives it up and acknowledges that the assertion of the populists constantly iterated and reiterated that while the American people were compelled to pay on the average twice as much for their goods as their European consumer, the same goods were manufactured here at less "labor cost" than were in by the "cheap labor" of which we have heard so much. In last Sunday's issue it says: "So the Americans have been paying better wages than the British employers and yet turning out a given product for less money."

That is what the populists have always said. It is a fact that American intelligent labor and American machines have been producing goods in this country for the last fifty years at a less "labor cost" than they were produced any where in Europe by "cheap labor." At the same time the consumers have been forced to pay double the price for what they bought that the people of Europe had to pay, and all for the benefit of the tariff barons. Is it any wonder that such a policy has produced the results that we see all around us. Three thousand millionaires and millions of poverty stricken workers,

INSURANCE MAD. The charge that the people have gone insane mad was further illustrated last week by the introduction of a bill in the legislature for hog insurance, and it had quite a number of supporters. One cannot go into a business office or store or listen to the talk on a street corner without hearing the voice of the insurance solicitor. It is a sort of madness that has seized the people, and unless there is something done to check it or it dies like any of the other fads that have time and again pervaded society, it will in the end create worse wrecks and more of them than this suffering world has ever before endured. There is no place in economics for the insurance theories that have become so popular. They are based on no known law of economics. They are outside of the principles of the science. Insurance can be defended from only one standpoint, and that is not economic in its nature. The mass of the insured are always and must of necessity always be losers. The only basis of insurance from which it can be defended is benevolence, and that instantly disappears the moment a company begins to make profits. The only kind of insurance that can be defended is where, say a thousand men bind themselves together and agree that if any one of their number suffers a loss all the others will contribute to make the loss good. That, of course, is a loss to the mass, as all insurance is, but it is pure benevolence. If something is not done to drive these great insurance corporations out of the state, they will in the end bankrupt the people. They have a mortgage on a large part of it now. These are not new views of the writer. He has held them for more than two decades, and they are not the result of recent occurrences.

The reliability of Associated Press news was exemplified last week when it sent out a dispatch announcing the death of John Sherman. The Nebraska legislature passed resolutions of condolence and ordered the flag on the state house to be put at half-mast. The next morning it was learned that the story was pure fiction.

Some of the tricks that the republicans have tried in this legislature serve to show only their malice. They have lost all the deftness that once characterized the party movements. The annual message of Governor Holcomb and the in-

augural address of Governor Poynter were documents they did not like and which they did not want to see filed away in the document room. So the republican printing committee showed up the printed copies with the language mutilated, and some of the most important parts left out. The outrage was so great that a resolution was passed in the house declaring that the printed copies were "wholly unfit for distribution." That kind of work is so contemptible that it will do the party engaged in it no good.

WISH THEY HADN'T. If anyone wants to take a glance at the sickest lot of republicans that were ever on exhibition he has only to go up to the state capitol of Nebraska and take a look at the fellows that started the investigating business. They are like the fellow in the bear story. "They can't hold on and they don't let go." They all wish that they had been dead drunk or out of the state when the thing was started. After weeks of examining witnesses and after expending hundreds of dollars, the summing up shows that the state has not lost a dollar, that the insurance companies were not charged half what any competent accountant would charge, (for not one of them will work for less than \$20 a day) and that the only malfeasance that has been committed was by one of the republican supreme judges who drew interest on a warrant long after it had been paid. They cast their net to catch a pop, but when they drew it in, to their intense astonishment and extreme disgust they found that they had caught a republican supreme judge. The whole lot of judges had been practicing "nepotism," but as there is no law against it, it is not an impeachable offense. The drawing of interest on a warrant after it was paid is an act of very different character. It is the only serious thing that has been discovered and it is a republican that is guilty, not a pop. No wonder that the g. o. p. fellows feel as though they were not enjoying good health.

The vilest thing that has yet come out about McKinley's white washing commission is the fact that the board deliberately suppressed the official reports of Col. Roosevelt in regard to the rotten beef furnished the rough riders. It came out in the examination of Gov. Roosevelt at New York the other day. Roosevelt said that the canned beef looked and tasted like tallow and water. Everywhere the evidence goes to show that the canned beef that was bought by Egan, Alger & Co., to be fed to the soldiers was prepared from what is known in the trade as "tankage" and was formerly used in the manufacture of fertilizers.

A BAREFACED FRAUD. About the most barefaced fraud that was ever attempted in these United States appears in circular sent out over the country which begins with these words: "Head quarters of the people's party National Committee, Milton Park, chairman." The head quarters of the peoples party is in Washington and the chairman is Marion Butler and not Milton Park. It is the fashion of Milton Park to talk about dishonest political moves, but if he can show anything that can compare with this in the action of any political party since the foundations of this government were laid, we would like to see him do it. Tammany Hall never did a thing that would compare in villainy to this action of a set of men who claim that they are the sanctified political managers of earth. All the basis for this action is a meeting of a few editors who represented no one but themselves. There is no pretense that any delegate convention ever gave sanction to any of their crazy movements. Even after the meeting of editors, Milton Park attended a meeting of the people's party national committee and recognized its authority. This can be nothing but a Mark Hanna scheme, Populists will not be deceived by it.

MCKINLEY GUILTY. During the Mark Hanna campaign and at the beginning of the war the republicans claimed all the patriotism in the country. To prove it they printed the picture of their candidates on Old Glory and sent their hired generals out campaigning on Pullman cars, the insurance companies and the trusts paying the bills. When the war was under way, they began to show their patriotism by feeding the private soldiers on embalmed and rotten beef, the latest testimony being that the canned beef was made out of the refuse that formerly was made up into fertilizers. That caused the death of hundreds of men, all done so that one of the trusts that had put up the money to corrupt the American electorate could get it back with interest and a big profit. To shield the men guilty of this horrible crime, an assault was made in the whole plutocratic press upon the only general who was patriotic enough to refuse to keep silence. That McKinley was as foul as the men who did the dastardly deed is shown by his appointment of an investigating committee of eminent republicans whose duty it was to make a false report in defense of the men who had been poisoning our soldiers. It is further shown by his commutation of the sentence of the guilty general, whom he knew to be the guilty of as vile a crime as an officer could commit, to six years vacation on full pay. The revelations made by witnesses at Chicago prove that McKinley is guilty, and that the whole gang, instead of being patriots, are as vile a nest of traitors as ever cursed any nation in all history. The chief criminal is McKinley himself.

It seems impossible for the middle-of-the-roader to tell the truth even if he knows that everyone else knows that he is lying. Dr. Robinson who is at present heading the Motinger outfit in Indiana, in a long proclamation says in speaking of the peoples party: "It grew and prospered and was taking on giant proportions until it struck its colors and from then till now, it has rapidly decreased in numbers. Nor has the party with which it affiliated held its relative strength and prowess but has suffered overwhelming defeat." Any one who ever read the official returns of the last presidential election knows that there is not a word of truth in that statement. Even without the 2,000,000 populist votes cast for Bryan, the returns show that the democratic party held more than its "relative strength."

Socialism entirely eliminates religion. The very essence of the theory makes it necessary to do so. There are no provisions for religious worship at Ruskin, and under their form of organization it will be impossible to provide for any. The colony authorities could not engage a minister of any denomination to conduct religious worship and use the colony funds for that purpose, as the members without doubt hold various views. The members of the colony could not provide for it, for they have no money or property of their own—it all belongs in common to the whole community. The religious nature in man can never be eliminated. It is constituent, inborn, and an essential part of him. Any sociological theory that ignores it must be false. Do a little thinking before you call yourself a socialist.

The walls of the director of the mint which are continually being sent out prove two things. First that the people of this country will not use gold for money if they can get anything to take its place that is more convenient. They prefer to use paper money. Second the director is trying to create a sentiment that the banks shall be given the sole authority to issue paper money to supply this universal demand. There is a protest from every part of the country against gold being forced on the people. For sums of five dollars and over, the

FRANK IAMS IMPORTER AND BREEDER 100 Percherons, Belgians, Shires-Clydes and Coachers IAMS RECEIVED \$1,320 For Making Greatest Horse Exhibit at Omaha Exposition.