

Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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The inhabitants of this Yankee nation are too full of energy to ever agree to live the life of stall fed cattle however well fed they may be, under a socialistic regime. Men are so made that they must have something to strive for. Take that away and they will die of dry rot.

Through the kindness of McKinley and the courts the republican party is fast getting rid of the old gang of thieves who have run the party in this state for the last twenty years. Mosher Bartley, Brad Slaughter, Tom Cook, Ed Sizer and John C. Watson are gone and more are soon to go. Will those who will take their places be of the same brand? It is very probable that they will.

The rise in the price of iron and steel is caused almost wholly by the enormous increase in the value of the world. Without that stimulus given to the trade, iron and steel would be a drug on the market. But this temporary advance only means permanent disaster. When the taxation that must result to pay the bills that the nations are now contracting begins to press upon the workers of the world, they will see the folly of it all. The temporary rise will pass away, and the effects of the policy will be a burden weighing down generations yet unborn.

McKinley's commissioners in the Philippines promise the inhabitants of that country a much better government than the republican party has ever given this country. They say to the Filipinos that if they will only lay down their arms and quit talking about independence they will give them an effective civil service reform and that "the collection and application of all taxes and other revenues will be placed upon a sound, economical basis and the public funds, raised justly and collected honestly." If the Filipinos are at all posted upon the conditions in this country, they will have some doubts about the fulfillment of such promises as that. However if they doubt it, the thing is to shoot them so full of lead that they will doubt no more.

In the old days when the republican party was first organized their fiery orators invaded every part of the north and the basis of all their speeches was the Declaration of Independence. That was the armor, shield and buckler. Now the republican orators declare that principles enunciated in that document are simply "glittering generalities." The first president of the republican party fought a great war to free 5,000,000 blacks and expended more than a billion of dollars to secure their freedom. Their last president bought 10,000,000 brown men and paid \$20,000,000 for them. Will it ever be possible to chisel into the heads of the muller headed Mark Hanna followers that voting the republican ticket now, is voting against every principle that republicans advocated thirty years ago?

NEW KIND OF STRIKES. There is said to be a strike organizing among the wage workers in the factory districts of New England such as the world ever saw before. It is a strike against another rise in wages. As an example of the raise in wages which has been so largely advertised in the gold standard papers, the following illustration is given:

"For instance, the workers engaged on a certain grade of goods were only yesterday paid 25 cents per 'cut,' and the cut was understood to be 50 yards. Now, 27 cents are paid, but it is found that the 'cut' has been lengthened to 57 yards, for which, had it not been for the raise in wage, the workers would have received 28 1/2 cents."

No persistent has been the claim that wages have been raised very many populists believe that it is true. There isn't a word of truth in it.

An average reduction of 13 1/2 per cent was made in 1897, and followed in January, 1898, by a further reduction of 10 per cent, making a total reduction of 23 per cent. Now, the utmost that is claimed by any employer is that his new schedule will increase the present wages from 5 to 10 per cent; in other words, that it will raise wages from the present 67 per cent to 70 or 74 per cent of what they were in 1897, leaving them still from 20 to 30 per cent lower than they were before the reduction.

It is any wonder that the wage workers are organizing against another raise of that kind in their wages?

THE MILITARY CENSOR.

The Swell Head hirelings who write editorials for the imperialistic dailies have been in the habit of sneering at the criticisms that have been made of the censorship of the dispatches that have been sent from Manila. James Creelman the famous war correspondent, who was wounded in the Santiago campaign while acting as the correspondent of the New York Journal, has gotten a dispatch through by sending it first to Hong Kong where the cable is not under the orders of the military forces of McKinley. Mr. Creelman says: "The correspondents are all puzzled by a censorship, compared to which Weyler's system in Havana was perfect freedom. The censorship does not deal alone with military matters; it suppresses nearly everything but such facts as General Otis wishes the American people to know."

That state of affairs is just what every populist said would be the result of an imperialistic policy. It is not possible to have a free press and a policy of imperialism at the same time. Free government and imperialism is impossible. They cannot exist in the same place at the same time. The question before the people now is: Shall we have an imperial, military government or shall we perpetuate the free government established by our fathers.

BILKINOR BRYAN.

The truly religious and more saintly New York Tribune has discovered that Bryan is an infamous blasphemer who grows worse as time goes on. It says he began his awful career with the crown of thorns and cross of gold simile at the Chicago convention and reached a culminating point in his wicked career the other day at Birmingham, Alabama, when he said: "Just as a good Christian would revolt at having the sacrament administered by an infidel, so a good democrat objects to having a Jeffersonian banquet presided over by Perry Belmont."

This is truly awful. There should be a general assembly of the religious leaders of the United States called immediately to devise some means whereby Bryan can be silenced. If he is allowed to go in this way, atheism will be enthroned and religion abolished. Whitlaw Reid should use his great daily to get such a convention together and should be made chairman of it. Bryan must be silenced. If he is not no one can tell what may happen.

NEW ENGLAND HEATHEN.

The corporations of the eastern states are exceedingly anxious to civilize the heathen of the islands of the sea, and some of their ministers seem to think that it is our duty and destiny to send our war ships to roam over the earth for the purpose of shooting christianity into them with thirteen inch guns. Meantime it seems that the heathen are increasing very fast right in the New England states which once were dotted with theological seminaries and filled with churches. The governor of New Hampshire, in a recent proclamation, speaking of his own state, says: "There are towns where no church bell sends forth its solemn call from January to January; there are villages where children grow to manhood unchristened; there are communities where the dead are laid away without the benison of the name of Christ and where marriages are solemnized only by justices."

Would it not be good policy to recall some of our troops from the Philippines and send them to New England with their magazine guns and automatic rifles to shoot some christianity into the heathen there? The truth of the matter is just what Prof. Herron said, "this devil worship called christianity."

HANNA'S LAST SCHEME.

The goldliterary bureau neglects no portion of their immense interests. They send out their publications in many different forms—prepared editorials, nicely bound books, pamphlets, plate matter—any way and anyhow so that they can get readers. One of these cloth bound books lies before us. The author is a master of good English but he cannot conceal from the critical reader that he does not himself believe one word of the carefully prepared argument which ends in the conclusion that "the money question is the most absurd and ridiculous issue that has ever been presented to the American people. As well hope to cure epilepsy by assisting the fellow victim to his feet as to expect to remedy industrial depression by financial legislation." The remedy he proposes is to tax labor saving machinery out of existence. To protect the country under such a state of affairs from buying all their goods from nations that should continue to use machinery and therefore could sell for less money he would have a prohibitory tariff. There is a nice socialistic—Mark Hanna—goldite scheme that they think will catch a good many ignorant voters.

McKINLEY NOT EAGAN.

There has never been a president who has committed to many shameful acts of administration as president McKinley. Any one of them committed thirty years ago by a president would have been met with a storm of public disapproval. The only reason that they have not been in this case is because this country is secured by a trucking, subversive, subsidized

press. As soon as McKinley took his seat he began to pardon bank presidents and cashiers who had been sent to prison for stealing the hard earned deposits of the poor. There is a long list of these. Then there is the Carter court martial. He was convicted by a military court of embezzling over a million dollars. His case has been in the president's hands for months without action. Lately there is the Eagan case, perhaps the most disgraceful of all. Although convicted and sentenced by a court martial to dismissal from the service for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, McKinley rearranged the sentence so that Eagan will draw from the government, according to the mortality tables of the insurance companies, \$78,000 and live in idleness and ease for the rest of his life. That sentence simply means that the honest and just accumulations, or what should be the accumulations of 78,000 toilers after a life time of work, have been taken away from them by McKinley and given to this scoundrel Eagan. It means the making of 78,000 slaves to reward an act of treachery by a military pet. It is McKinley much more than Eagan who is the guilty one.

THE FIRST NEBRASKA.

In regard to the return of the volunteers now serving in the Philippines, the situation seems to be, and it is no use to try to deceive ourselves however much we want the First Nebraska sent home, about this: According to the terms of enlistment, the First is entitled to an immediate discharge, but if the volunteers are sent home before reinforcements arrive, the troops left would be in danger of extermination. It is not to be supposed that the administration will take any such risk. To keep the boys longer in the Philippines only requires a construction put upon the late act of congress that that act can easily bear. There is not a particle of doubt that McKinley will stand by the construction made by the attorney general the other day which was to the effect that the president had the authority to hold them for six months more, and it is the opinion of this paper that that is what will be done. The only hope of getting the boys of the First home again in the near future is to stop the war on the Philippines. If the friends of the First would demand a change in this imperialistic policy instead of supporting it, as so many of them do, they would not only relieve themselves of constant self contradiction, but could present an argument that would have force.

THE TRUSTS.

A farmer in the northern part of the state writes that he is puzzled beyond measure at the enormous capitalization of the new trusts that have been organized during the last few months. He says: "I can't understand it at all. Will you try to enlighten me and others among your readers on that subject? In a paper that I take, it is stated that the known trusts have a capital of over four billions of dollars. Where did all this enormous amount of capital come from?"

It comes from nowhere. Two-thirds of it is water. Trust formation is simply a craze that has seized upon the people. Every generation has been afflicted by a like craze and this will result just as all of them have resulted in the bankruptcy of thousands.

Look at it dispassionately for a moment and see how absurd it is. According to the census of 1890 the manufacturing capital of the whole United States amounted to \$6,139,377,485. During the last six months trusts have been organized with a capital of \$4,185,489,700. Take into consideration that the value of manufacturing plants has greatly decreased since 1890, the fall of prices affecting them as well as all other kinds of property. Does not the simple statement of the facts prove that the formation of trusts is simply a financial scheme for the most part having in view the shearing of the lambs who invest in their stocks?

The reason why the owners of manufacturing plants are so willing to sell out to the trusts is because their works have not been profitable and because there was little or no money to be made in running them, notwithstanding that McKinley has "opened the mills" and there is a great wave of prosperity passing over the country. If these manufacturers had been making money, they would have not sold out to the trusts. But as they were scarcely holding their own or were losing money, they were all keen to sell out. That being true, what prospect is there that after the stock has been watered 50 or a 100 per cent, that they are going to pay dividends? In every case where a trust has taken them, the first thing that has been done is to issue stock to twice the amount of the original capitalization.

If there had been good times and rising prices there would have been no trusts. Whenever prices begin to rise again, the trusts will disappear. With their enormous capitalization they could not stand competition on a rising market with corporations or individuals working on real and legitimate capital. A cotton mill with an inflated capital of \$200,000, could not do business along side of another mill with a capital of \$100,000, which had just as good machinery and could turn out just as much work.

Now is a good time to subscribe.

GET TOGETHER.

Mayor Jones mixes up terms when he is talking and writing in such a confusing way that there is much excuse to call him almost anything. At one time, if we are to judge from the terms he uses, he is a democrat, a minute afterward he is a socialist, while he all the time insists on calling himself a republican. The principles he advocates are neither republican nor socialistic, but are populism as defined in the national and state platforms of the populist party. The following extracts from an interview with him, published in the April Coming Age, will illustrate the criticism.

"The acceptance of the idea of democracy involves a dismissal from the mind of any thought of class or classes, and this degrading notion has always hindered the progress of the world. The idea that a few of us are endowed with the 'divine right of kings,' and are especially fitted to govern or rule what we have called the lower classes, is undemocratic, as well as unchristian and of course unbrotherly, and worst of all it is unscientific.

"If we are a democracy we must believe in the people; there is no escape from that conclusion. If we believe in the people, we must believe that we are going to be saved altogether or lost altogether, and it is my belief that we are making progress toward nobler ideas of democracy and brotherhood than we have ever yet dreamed of. I see this in the growing desire to enlarge the functions of government in ministering to the social wants of the people; and we have long since recognized the importance of the thing that we call education and have practically made that as free as the air we breathe, so I believe that we shall enlarge our conceptions of what constitutes education, and make such things as baths, gymnasia, play grounds etc., as free to all as the common school now is."

In that passage he uses the term "democracy." In the very next sentence he calls the same thing "socialism" and says:

"There is no room to doubt that fifty per cent of the sum now expended in so-called restraining and charitable methods, if expended in some reasonable way along socialist lines, so as to enlarge the privileges of the people and to provide opportunities for them, would within twenty-five years place our almshouses, jails, penitentiaries and prisons very largely in the domain of the relics of the hideous past."

Out of the propagation of the principles contained in the Omaha platform has grown a great controversy that is attracting the attention of all men—the learned and unlearned alike. The time has come when the system of government there outlined should have a term to describe it. It is different from anything the world has ever given attention before. It should be named and labeled. It results only in confusion to call it one minute democracy, the next socialism and the next something else. Worse than that, it divides the believers into hostile camps, when they should all be in one camp. It places them in different parties when they should be in one party.

The essence of this system is as Professor Stuckenberg has expressed it in his article in another column of this paper. "Whatever pertains to the public must be managed by the public in the interest of the public and what is private must be left to private management." That is the populist theory of management. It is not socialism. It is not republicanism. It has not been the theory of the democratic party in the past, although that party is fast coming to adopt it.

Why should not all persons who believe in this theory of government agree upon a term to describe it and then all get together into one party and work together to establish it in these United States? It is the demand of the age. It is being partially adopted, in every civilized government on earth. Every political party has in a measure, at least, to recognize it. Why not make a straight issue upon it? Why not get together? Why not?

THE RECORD'S LIAR.

The greatest, monumental, everlasting stick-to-it liar of this or any other age is W. E. Curtis, the goldbug Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record. A few days ago he published a statement to the effect that Japan had reduced her volume of money in circulation about one-half and the result of it was that prices and wages of labor in that country had nearly doubled. When some one wrote him that that could not be so, he published a lot of Japanese statistics to prove that it was. He gave the number of yen (the Japanese dollar) three or four years ago and the number now, showing that there had been a great reduction in their number. Then he gave the former prices and those of today. What makes the lie so monumental, is that those figures are probably correct? They were taken from the Japanese official reports. There may be less yen now than there were three or four years ago and prices and wages are higher than they were then. It is that kind of a lie that is the worst of all lies, because he did not state in connection with it, the fact that at the time that the first statistics of amount of money in circulation and the rate of wages and prices were given, that Japan was on

the silver basis and that while there was a good deal of gold in the country there was not a yen in circulation. Then the government passed a law that every gold yen should be worth two yen. That act doubled the money power of the gold yen and besides that, the gold immediately went into the circulation. In this way the volume of money in circulation in Japan was more than doubled and prices and wages immediately rose. Counting each gold yen as only one, when in purchasing power it is two, and making no mention of the fact that none were in circulation at the time, a reduction in the number of yen could be figured out. But what will honest men think of such a writer?

THEY GO FRANTIC.

The veto that the republicans so much dislike that they denounce it every day in the week, contains these words:

"The state of Nebraska is and has a just right to be proud of the First Nebraska volunteers. We acknowledge with gratitude and joy the debt the state owes them by reason of the honor conferred upon it by their valor. We pledge the honor of the state that to the living shall be accorded worthy distinction and to the dead all that can be given the dead, a fitting memorial of their fame."

Whenever the coyote that edits one of their papers sees these words he goes frantic. Wonder why?

GRAVITATION REVERSED.

One source of the very great increase in the circulation of the money of Japan which was not enumerated in the article on that subject in another column, is the use of credit money. Formerly Japan had none at all, but the financiers were quick to avail themselves of it after a law was passed permitting them to do so. Credit money is used in that country now to the same extent it is here. The increase in the volume of money in Japan, taking into account the coming into circulation of gold, the doubling of the value of gold by law, the use of credit money, the facilities of handling money through banks and in other ways has been enormous. The result has been a great advance in wages and prices. It is probable that if a goldbug Washington correspondent should announce that the law of gravitation had been reversed in Japan, and that every loose thing was flying upwards, the whole republican press would declare that it was so and denounce every man who denied it as a copperhead.

It should always be held in mind that when republicans talk about "reform" they intend to make things worse. When they say that they are going to "reform the currency" they mean that they will give us worse and more of it than we have ever had before.

Hardy's Column.

Tariff—West or East which—Was it a Good Bargain—New Party—The trial in Ohio.

By the way steel and iron are going to Europe, Africa and Asia the whole world will have to pass a high protective tariff to enable their own iron men to get a higher price for their manufactured product than Americans sell for.

Writers persist in saying that the Manila war is in the east, they should say in the west. It is more than twice as far from us measuring east as it is measuring west. San Francisco is east of New York, but we say west because it is much nearer measuring that way. Yankee people are great for going west. A year ago our west was all used up now we can go west again.

It was a good bargain, only a little over two dollars a head that we paid for the Filipinos. The negro slaves of the south in 1850 were counted worth \$800 each. To start with they cost ten times as much as the Filipinos, but that kite did not have a ten year war tail, as this one has. A hundred thousand more volunteers will be gathered the next

sixty days and that will not be the last. It must not be forgotten that there are three times as many people to conquer in the Philippine Islands as there were in the country when England thought it would be an easy job to conquer our forefathers. The expansionist's claim that Dewey had men enough to clear up the job but now he wants a hundred thousand more. It now looks as though the song of '63, "We are coming father Abraham" will not be sung as it was then.

After comparing the three platforms as they now exist an honest man can see but little difference except in the hands. If they were all put in one and given one name an artist could not tell where they were welded together. The doctrines of each are actually held by all. Then the end end gold bug democrats will be forced to sink out of sight into the gold bug republican party. As soon as the sheep are gathered together the goats will have no where else to go.

We can't agree with Bixby, of the Journal, that the guilt of Mrs. George and Saxton was about equal. It is true "he paid the penalty" but it is not true that "it is her turn now" to pay the same penalty. He was the tempter, not she, and the tempter in a joint crime is far the greatest criminal. If I was on the jury my verdict would be justifiable homicide. On top of that I would pay her a bounty ten times larger than was ever paid for killing a wolf. The briber is the dangerous man and not the one bribed. These coronators, in human form, who hang upon society and feed upon virtue and honor should be treated as wild beasts of prey. So the political briber who hangs around congress, state legislatures courts and the ballot box to thwart justice, with money, deserves a similar dose.

News of the Week

The war in the Philippines and the return of the First Nebraska has been the topic of conversation of almost the whole citizenship of the state for the last few days. There has been continual skirmishing going on here all the time and on Monday Melkiojohn sent the following list of additional killed and wounded: First Nebraska, wounded—March 26, company H, Private Deeds Forsberg, abdomen, slight; March 28, company F, Private Orta Ross, side, slight; March 29, company C, Private Jesse Baird, hand, slight; company E, Edward Mathews, wrist, slight, and company K, William L. Gilbert, side, slight; March 31, company L, Sergeant William L. Baehr, shoulder, slight, company B, Private Herbert Rasmussen, thigh, severe; company E, Frank A. Graham, leg, slight. Death—April 9, CORPORAL WALTER R. RILEY, fever.

The fact about the situation in the Philippines, and it does not require much military knowledge to see it, is that our troops are stretched out in a thin line many miles long, with scarcely enough men to hold it. The consequence is that constant and excessively hard service is demanded of every regiment and troop now on the islands. If any part of that line is weakened, it would portend disaster to those who remained. Under these circumstances it will hardly be possible for McKinley to send any troops home until others arrive to take their place. The only way to get the First home, while any of them are yet alive, is to stop this war or make a draft and send others to do the fighting.

The attempt to back up McKinley's war and at the same time demand the return of the volunteers will not work together. Several petitions that have been sent to Washington on that subject will probably receive the answer: "If you believe in the prosecution of this war as you say in your petition, how can you demand the return of the troops necessary to prosecute it?"

Some of those who have been most pronounced in their advocacy of imperialism were brought up with a round turn by the military authorities. They sent the following message to the company from Omaha: "Boys don't enlist."

FRANK IAMS

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IAMS HORSE SHOW at the Omaha Exposition, had ALL THE PEOPLE—Judge Superintendent and all—ON THE RUN—to see the largest exhibit of horses on grounds. MORE BLACK STALLIONS than all exhibitors; MORE 2,000-LB. HORSES, 1,800-lb. two-year-olds; more state prize winners, Exposition winners—at leading Ill., Ia., Neb., and St. Louis fairs—and the largest stallion and mare in U. S., weight 5,000 lbs.

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