

Nebraska Independent

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What are called the lower classes are, in morals, religion and patriotism by far the highest class.

His full title is: "President of the United States and Emperor of the Philippine Islands" and any one who fails to so address him is a copperhead.

A new term must be admitted to the accepted formula. We have no word or term to express the idea. Who will invent one? Shall we call it populism?

The only social communism that this world will ever adopt is a communism of ideas. All have equal proprietorship in them. Let us have communism of thought.

Education often puts the pauper on the intellectual throne and makes the king his subject, but education is not all obtained in the colleges and universities. The contact with men and with nature sometimes produces the highest education.

It seems that every time a republican administration is elected the people begin to get frightened and a cry is raised for more troops. What does the thing mean anyhow? There does not seem to be a demand for troops to keep order except when we have a republican president.

The imperialist organs insist that Gen. Lawton's expedition was a success in as much as he did not start out to capture Filipinos, but to distribute proclamations. They say that he succeeded in distributing thousands upon thousands of them.

Another attorney general has started out to fight the trusts. This time he hails from Arkansas which state has the most stringent anti-trust laws in the Union. He will not get a scalp. As long as Hanna runs things at Washington, just so long will the trusts be able to down any attorney general that lives.

Every age has its craze. Once it was knight errantry. Then it was monasticism. Then it was something else. The craze of our time is the insane craving for wealth. Intellect, character, affection, everything sacred is sacrificed, and the whole world seems to be a mad house, where all the inmates are screaming for gold.

For fifty years the scholars of the universities have been studying the science of nature. They have made some wonderful discoveries and conquered nature in a thousand ways. Now let them turn their attention to the science of man and see if they can so conquer him that order can be brought out of this social chaos.

The banquet spread by nature is sufficient for all. The plutocratic arrangement of the guests so that one man can over gorge himself and after he has done that, prevent others from eating what he cannot himself eat, must be overthrown. The pops expect to take a hand when the new arrangement is made and see to it that all may be fed.

The Chicago tribune is booming Carter Harrison for the democratic nomination for the presidency. Let it keep at it. The more the gold bug papers boom some one else to beat Bryan, the surer Bryan is to get the nomination. Loyal democrats do not seek advice from the enemy and when it is proffered they do the other thing.

The republican papers are beginning to say, in great big letters, that the trusts is the one great question before the people and of far more importance than the money question. Nevertheless their special committee is working away at Atlantic City preparing a bill to establish the gold standard, while not one of them has proposed a bill to down the trusts. That makes a pop look "a little out" when they say such things.

Tom Reed retires from the house of representatives after twenty years of service amid the plaudits of the whole nation's press. But what bill did Tom Reed ever introduce or what policy did he ever inaugurate that was a benefit to his country? Why should he be called a great man? The columns of this paper are open to any republican to answer either of these questions.

THE REPUBLICAN PRESS.

Why any man who is interested in the public questions that are engrossing the attention of the people of the United States should want to take a republican paper, is beyond comprehension. If he is only interested in the current news and scandals of the day of course he will find it there. The pages of these papers are filled with well written accounts of political scandals, divorce cases, horse races, prize fights, ball games, murder trials, safe robberies, poisoning cases, and all the various matters of that kind that are continually happening, but of the great movements of thought and the many problems that are pressing for settlement, and which must be settled, if we are to have a government and a country at all, there is little or nothing.

Of questions like the following, men everywhere are thinking, but nothing will be found in the republican press concerning them. Has every man a right to live? Should the powers with which all human beings are endowed be developed? Has the individual the right to insist on an "opportunity" for development? Is the land God's gift to all or has a certain class a right to make a monopoly of it? Has every man a right to an opportunity to work? Has any one a moral right to more than he needs or can use, while others waste away from want? Has a man a right to protection in property that he never earned, which was procured by fraud or bribery? Is labor the source of all value? Ought individual wealth to be permitted to accumulate indefinitely, growing from generation to generation so as to accumulate all wealth in a few hands? Shall the right continue to receive by inheritance these immense fortunes without taxation when passing from the dead man to the living one? Shall the privilege to form trusts to control the necessities of life and make monopolies of them be continued?

While these questions and many others of equal importance are pressing for solution and are in the thoughts of all intelligent men, no republican editor has the courage or ability to discuss them. At least they do not discuss them. What object then can a reasonable man who is a patriot, have in taking a republican paper? It may be that they have never taken any other sort of a paper and do not know that these things are written about any where. If some of the populists would make it a point to mention to republican neighbors that these questions receive constant attention in the populist papers, the circulation of populist literature would be greatly increased.

OUR CZAR EVACUATES.

It is stated in the dispatches that Tom Reed has accepted a position in a law firm in New York and will resign his seat in Congress. There will be a great big vacancy in the house of representatives, for Tom Reed "is tree foot one way, six foot toder, and weighs tree hundred pound." Tom, they say, will hereafter make \$100,000 a year. He will still keep charge of the insurance place he has held so long, and out of which he drew nearly ten times the amount he could make while acting as czar of the house. The candidates for the speakership of the house already number more than a dozen, and there will be a lively time when the house caucus meets to name his successor.

Tom Reed has not only been the czar of the house for the last few years, whenever the republicans have had a majority, but he has been the brains of the great insurance companies that have a mortgage spread out all over the western states. He will now be able to give more time to their interests than ever, and the insurance dupes of the west will be sheared more closely than they ever have been in all the years, while the insurance companies have been piling up their millions.

Since the organization of the populist party at Omaha, social theories have undergone a change that can hardly be said to be less than a revolution. Men have seized hold of the rights of man, of freedom and liberty, with a tighter grip than they ever had before. New ideals have not only been formed but men of action are coming forth to put them in force. These ideas were at first rejected, then ridiculed, then considered, then adopted by many thousands who are now active workers in the field of reform.

About the smallest man that the soil of Nebraska ever nourished is Senator Hayward. There was a meeting held in Schuyler to commemorate the surrender of the rebel army to Grant on April 11. It was proclaimed as a patriotic occasion and members of all parties assisted in getting it up. Hayward made a speech in which he attacked Governor Poynter in a ferocious manner for vetoing the resolution that contained an endorsement of McKinley's war. Of course any man who had the instincts of a gentleman about him would never have done such a thing. But when it was proposed that the message containing the veto should be read, this insufferable and refused. Think of the most intelligent state in the union being represented in the United States senate by such a boor as that!

The idea of freedom never had any standing in the world until Jefferson gave it force. Hegel says: "The Ameri-

an regarded himself as free, a native Roman citizen was free by birth. But that man as man is free, according to his very nature and that he is born free, was known neither to Plato nor Aristotle, neither by Cicero nor the Roman jurists, although this idea is the only source of law. Not until the principle of Christianity was introduced did the idea that the individual, personal spirit is infinite, absolute worth receive recognition." The effort to establish wage slavery by the enforcement of the gold standard in this age, is an effort to re-establish the principles that ruled in the world before the coming of Christ. In fact the conditions would be as much worse as industrial slavery is worse than chattel slavery.

The manufacturers are still shipping goods to all parts of the world where they undersell the "pauper-made" goods of Europe. The only effect that a tariff can have under such circumstances is to make the American consumer pay from 40 to 100 per cent more for his goods than the same goods are sold to the "paupers" of Europe. The reason why American manufactures can undersell the English, German and French manufactures was long ago stated by Marshall, who, after an investigation lasting for some years, declared that "ten Americans are equal to twenty Germans; twenty-six Austrians; forty Spaniards; sixty Italians or sixty-eight Portuguese."

The Dakota Ruralist still devotes considerable space to left handed compliments of the editor of the Independent. It insists that this editor don't know enough to enter the primer class and is still studying the alphabet. That is because he cannot understand how the "culmination of the competitive system" ends in the destruction of competition. A trust is organized to destroy competition. When it is formed and competition is destroyed that is, according to the Ruralist, "the culmination of competition." It will take something more than the study of a primer to enable one to understand such a hodge podge of ideas as that. This editor is inclined to the belief that it is one of those things that no pop can find out, or that it belongs to that class of things that Herbert Spencer called the "unknowable."

Reform must come from within. It is first an idea evolved from the inner consciousness. All the thinking, however, accomplishes nothing until the man of action comes. This man of action is an entirely different creature from the man of thought, but he is just as necessary. In the populist party just now, we need more the man of action than anything else. Let him step forth and organize and put the thoughts that we have been thinking for the last eight years into a living force in actual reform.

In the municipal fight in Toledo every minister in the city was against Jones except one, but he was an earthquake and tornado in one. His name is Rev. George Candeen. When will the other ministers of that city take time enough to read their bibles and find out that the Golden Rule is better than the rule of money and afterwards go out among the common people learn that a very large majority of them so believe.

The socialist vote in 1881, 2,068; 1890, 13,331; 1892, 21,157; 1894, 33,133; 1896, about 40,000. In Germany it had grown from 763,128 in 1887 to 1,786,758 in 1893 and there has been some gains since then although the exact figures are not attainable in this country. There are 48 socialist members of the German parliament.

One of the companies of the First when they received their Christmas boxes tore up some old cotton stuffed mattress and scattered the cotton wool over the ground to make it look like snow. Then they broke open the boxes, took out their presents and tried to imagine that they were back in Nebraska eating a Christmas dinner.

Whatever we may say about the matter, the fact remains that class distinctions are becoming as definitely defined in the United States as in any monarchy of the old world. The absence of titles does not alter the fact. The distinctions exist.

Spain tried for three hundred years to civilize the Philippine archipelago and then sold out the job to the United States for \$20,000,000. That is the only good bargain that Spain has made in a hundred years.

John Brown's soul has stopped marching on. Shooting niggers is now classed by the professed followers of John Brown in the same class of sports as shooting rabbits. Any one who does not agree to it is a copperhead.

So mad has the imperialists become, they call appealing to the Declaration of Independence and the constitution, appealing to the worst motives of the people. Men who do it are called unpatriotic, treasonable copperheads.

We bought 10,000,000 niggers at two dollars a head and then sent 30,000 troops 10,000 miles to shoot them. The profit in that transaction is one of those things that no pop can find out.

"TREASON"

Gen. Otis denounces that telegram from Omaha to a company in the First as "treason." The Independent said about the same thing about a week ago. The thing to do is to decide whether the United States is to prosecute this war against the Filipinos. If it is, then we must all support the government whether we like it or not. It will not do to advocate the prosecution of McKinley's war and at the same time send cablegrams to the soldiers to come home. That is treason. Populists had any thing to do with the cablegram which Otis denounces. They have more sense than that. It was the work of McKinley's supporters.

There has been much discussion about what is the right name with which to designate the Filipinos who are fighting our troops in the Philippines. The imperialists call them rebels, others call them insurgents, but neither name is technically correct. Now these niggers were bought by McKinley for about \$2 a head. Then they got up an insurrection, or rather what would have been called a few years ago in the south, a slave mutiny. As "contumacious" means persevering disobedience to orders, why not call these nigger chattle "contumacious?"

They have been having some experience with telephone companies in Chicago lately that will have a tendency to educate the people in populist principles. The outrageous charges made by the Bell company created a general outcry and another company was formed. The council gave it a charter under the promise that rates would be greatly reduced. Now it is said that as soon as the franchise was granted, the owners of it sold out to the Bell company for \$200,000. There is only one thing to do with telephone companies and that is to let the public own them.

The Chicago Banker, a financial magazine, in an article in last month's issue bore valuable testimony to the assertion that populists have constantly made, that the banks controlled every interest in this country. In speaking of the great fall in all industrial securities last week in New York, it said: "The moment that the banks began to discriminate against industrial, a forced liquidation began." That tells the whole story. Let the banks begin to discriminate against any business and a liquidation will begin.

We have about 6,000 gentlemen in this country who live in luxury on the interest of what they owe. They owe their note holders and depositors billions of dollars, they get interest on all of it and generally manage to compound it every sixty or ninety days. The remainder of the inhabitants toil ceaselessly to pay the interest and go about declaring that it is the best system the world ever saw. And Shakespeare's little god Puck, winks his left eye and says: "What fools these mortals be!"

Rev. Sam Jones was hired by the corporations to go to Toledo and fight Mayor Jones. Sam exhausted his whole supply of slang in denouncing the man who was running for mayor with the Golden Rule as a platform. The corporations lost every cent that they paid to him and they will invest no more money in that kind of oratory.

The friends of Thurston can still claim that John is a sixteen to one. They say that he has made sixteen gold speeches to one that he ever made for free silver. Now John sings: "I am happy and blest to lie on your breast" to Mark Hanna and the corporations, and Mark replies: "All right Johnny. Snuggle up close."

The Chicago Banker says: "Contraction is a proposition difficult to defend before an audience." It is to be commended for its frankness. It is only in a bank parlor where that proposition is received with cheers. There can never be a gold standard permanently established in this country until a tremendous contraction takes place.

Nearly every fusion paper in the state is criticizing the new ballot law. The general opinion is that the old law was the best and simplest form of ballot that the state ever had and the editors can't see why it was allowed to be changed. The Independent don't like the new law any better than the rest of them.

Uncle Sam got rich by attending to his own business, but he will be mighty poor after he gets through attending to the business of the whole world. Thirty-five thousand savages whose affairs he has taken in hand down in Samoa, are coating him hundreds of thousands.

The populist party made the first attempt ever made to pass from criticism of our horrible social conditions to an effort for actual relief. It abandoned negation and began construction. It did not propose revolution or the overthrow of society, but reform.

There are a whole lot of preachers who seem to think that the Golden Rule means the rule of gold. Some day another Carpenter will rise and drive them out of God's temple with a whip of small cords.

The trust is the corporation gone to seed.

The Independent never joined in the assaults on Col. Stotsenberg. It has nothing to regret and nothing to take back.

A farmer in writing to this paper says: "I saw a railroad agent sell a ticket for \$10 and he did not put any revenue stamp on it, and he said that he 'didn't' have to. I gave my note for \$10 and of course I had to stamp it. I am an old man sixty years of age. It seems to me that it is about time that the reforms of which I have dreamed should happen. I am for reform and if you look back on your lists you will find the name of J. W. Jones."

If the women's culture clubs want to do something really patriotic and useful, let them take to introducing the teaching of the English language in the common schools and colleges of this country. From the correspondence that has passed through the hands of this editor during the last two decades, he is forced to the conclusion that English is not taught in our schools at all. Perhaps out of three hundred letters for publication written by graduates, men in the professions and people generally, there will be one that can be handed to the printer without corrections.

DOCTOR OF SOPHISTRY.

Many of the writers on the gold standard papers are highly educated men. They have been through the universities and obtained the regular degrees. They have studied logic and rhetoric but they apply their knowledge and all the skill they have thus acquired to conceal or distort the truth. The man who writes most of the editorials for the State Journal has evidently studied logic. He seems to have made a special study of that part of the science that treats of sophistries; not that he may avoid them in his writing, but to make the utmost use of them for the purpose of deceiving the unlearned who are unable to detect them, he doubtless well knowing that it is from the ignorant and vicious that most of the republican votes come.

One of the sophistries pointed out in the text books is to assume a proposition as true and as accepted as true by all, which is false, and then draw a conclusion from the premise thus assumed. In the edition of April 22, the Journal made use of this fallacy six times. The following paragraph alone contains three such fallacies:

"The pessimistic pops who have been figuring as prophets of evil ever since their friend Aguinaldo undertook to break through our thin line at night to loot Manila and murder the foreigners there, are much taken back by the latest advice from the Philippines. Their predictions that the Tagals would carry on a guerilla warfare in the mountains for a generation were founded on quicksand."

Here it is assumed that the pops are pessimistic, that they are peculiarly friends of Aguinaldo, and they expect that the Filipinos will carry on a guerilla warfare for thirty-three years.

The writer of that paragraph does not expect that any intelligent man will accept those assumptions as true. He knows that anyone who has the slightest knowledge of logic will instantly point out the fallacies that lie so plainly upon the surface. It is simply an appeal to ignorance and party prejudice. That is always the last hope of a dying cause. It is said that the principal writer of editorials on the Journal has a college degree. Its abbreviation should be D. S. That is Doctor of Sophistry.

Col. Colton sent a cablegram to Gov. Poynter Wednesday, declining the appointment to the command of the First and the Governor immediately promoted Major Mulford to be Colonel. Lieut. Col. Colton has been detached from the regiment nearly ever since he has been in Manila by order of the war department at Washington.

DR. LYMAN ABBOTT.

Dr. Lyman Abbott has an article in Outlook advocating imperialism. In reading it one cannot fail to lose hope for a government by reason. When a man with an intellect and education like Dr. Abbott, through religious prejudice or the associations in every day life by which he is surrounded, will calmly sit and argue from two premises which are self contradictory and claim that they both support his contention, what can we hope from the ordinary toiler who has not had the advantages of an education? In advocacy of the prosecution of the war in the Philippines and the conquest of the people of those islands Dr. Abbott says:

"There are some communities made up of barbarians with whom you cannot reason. . . . We must compel obedience by force, that the foundations may be laid for the operation of reason and conscience."

His conclusion which he arrives at after going over the whole matter is:

"If we have faith in God, the Father of the human race, revealed to us through his son Jesus Christ; if we have faith in love as the law of life, if Christianity means to live and to love; if it means to do justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with God—woe to us Christian men and women if in this hour when the world is opening to us, when the gates are flung apart and law is being established where law was never known before; when commerce white winged, is going where commerce never went before—woe to us if we have no message, or no courage to send our message!"

"To walk humbly before his God" an American must carry a Krag-Jorgensen on his shoulder, 200 rounds on his belt and be backed up with automatic, rapid firing guns. Then according to Dr. Abbott he is "walking humbly before his God." Could a greater travesty on human reason be found even in the unruly ward of an insane asylum?

Then cast a glance at the assumptions in that paragraph, statements that he assumes as true and not to be denied.

"The gates are flung apart." They are not in the Philippines for the native people are piling them high even with their dead bodies to keep us out. "Where law never was before." Where is there such a place on all this wide earth? It may not be our law, but the most barbarous tribes have laws which they obey. Where ever man is found, there will in be found. "When commerce is going where commerce never went before." Will Dr. Abbott point out the spot on the face of the earth where the commerce of the nations has not gone? "Woe to us if we send no message!" What message shall we send? Is it the hissing of bullets and the shrieking of shells? or shall it be the school teacher or the missionary preaching peace on earth and good will to man?

Then Dr. Abbott after making this statement asks us "to ponder it." Well, we have, and the conclusion is that the doctor is losing his mind.

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