

# The Nebraska Independent.

The Wealth Makers and Lincoln Independent Consolidated.

VOL. X.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1899.

NO. 52.

## News of the Week

The First Nebraska will never come back from the Philippines. That is impossible now. A dispatch from Manila says that there are only 375 of them left in the regiment and every day they are thrown into the thickest of the fighting while the full and fresh regiments of regulars are carefully kept in the rear or in a place of safety. They will never come back. Perhaps some time next winter a few worn and emaciated enlisted men, not enough to make a full company will be discharged and that will be all that is left of more than 1,300 who sailed for the Philippines to fight Spain. Spain long ago was whipped and sued for peace. Her soldiers never killed but one of the Nebraska boys. They have been slaughtered in a war against a people that they never enlisted to fight. If a Nebraska mother objects to the murder of her son in this way or tries to send him a telegram she is a traitor and a copperhead and is so denounced by the Lincoln organ. The First Nebraska regiment will never come back. It scarcely exists today and in a few weeks, after it has been thrown into the breach a few times more, it will be only a memory—a sacred memory to be cherished by sorrowing hearts all over this state. And still the weeping mothers ask: "What is it all for?"

After the fighting at Santiago, Cuba, which was mostly done by the regulars, the telegraph wires were kept hot with requests for promotion of officers of the regular army for gallantry on the field of action. The fighting in the Philippines has been more bloody and fierce, but the administration gets no requests from the regular army officers who hold all the important positions for promotion for gallantry upon the field. Just one only so far has been made. The feat of Colonel Funston so dazzled the world that it could not be ignored. But that is the only one. One volunteer officer after another has led his men into the very jaws of death with a bravery and skill never before equalled, but there are no requests for promotion from the generals of the regular army who are in command. If a regular regiment had performed the deeds done by the First Nebraska, every officer in it would have been recommended for promotion.

One of the most pitiable sights ever seen in Lincoln is that of old General Thayer going around shaking his trembling fists and declaring that the blood of every soldier killed in the Philippines rests upon the head of W. J. Bryan. Those who are opposed to this war simply smile and pass him by in silence.

The Fourth of July is nearly here and still there is only one member in J. Sterling Morton's party.

Until McKinley's attempt to change the policy of this nation which has been followed ever since the days of Washington, the people of this country had little interest in the affairs of foreign nations and but little attention was paid to their bickerings and strifes with each other. Now their affairs have become of vital importance to us. It is taken for granted by every foreign country that the action of this administration is a notice to the world that we have abandoned the Monroe doctrine. Some of these nations are boldly advocating the extending of their power over the South American continent by colonization and by force. It will be seen that McKinley has opened a Pandora's box. If we claim the right to annex territory in Asia by conquest or purchase, the European nations declare that they will exercise the same right upon the continents of North and South America. That throws us into every European squabble, will be the cause of unending wars, great standing armies and every evil that afflicts the people of the old world and from which we have kept ourselves free by following the advice of Washington in his farewell address. In consequence of this, patriotic men have been watching with a great deal of anxiety the tone of the foreign press. Our foreign relations, by this abandonment of the policy followed by every American statesman until Mark Hanna and McKinley took charge, may become the all important thing in the next few months or years. If the present policy is followed many more Nebraska regiments will have to lay down their lives in foreign lands in years to come.

Mark Hanna has made arrangements for McKinley to take a swing around the globe during the campaign. The parading the president up and down the country in the interest of a political party is about as low down politics as can be invented. The president should

be the president of all the people and not the president of a political party. Decent men in all parties should protest against it. But if Mark Hanna persists in this plan and McKinley submits himself to be used in such dirty kind of political work, then he should be treated as any ordinary partisan is treated when he is out campaigning. Let his appearances be known as republican meetings. Let no more honors be shown to him than to any other republican orator of the same ability. Let his meetings be followed by as large ones by the opposition. Let him and what he says be criticized with the same freedom as the words of any other politician.

One of the greatest sensations of the week has been a violation of the mails by an order from McKinley. In the darkest days of the rebellion, when traitors were scattered all over the north, many of them committing overt acts, Lincoln never issued an order like that. These sappers and miners of returning despotism continually make slow advancement. This is one of them. The occasion of this violation of the mails was as follows. Edward Atkinson wrote some pamphlets against imperialism and mailed them to certain officers and the members of McKinley's commission in the Philippines. They were ordered taken from the mails at San Francisco, and it was done. This matter has called the attention of the whole country to the telegram sent by some of the mothers of the Nebraska boys telling them not to enlist, which was held by the military censor and not delivered. The situation under McKinley's despotism is about as follows: The sovereign people of the United States are not allowed to know what is going on in the Philippines for everything sent from there has to pass through the hands of a censor. The troops in the Philippines are not allowed to know what is going on in the United States for they are forbidden to the use of the mails and telegraphs. Such action on the part of the British government would cause a revolution inside of twenty-four hours. It is doubtful if it would be endured by any nation on earth outside of Russia. To this, has Mark Hanna and McKinley reduced this nation.

The Standard Glass and Paint Co., have moved from 1312 O street to 138 North 13th street where they will be pleased to see their old customers.

## TROUBLE AT RUSKIN

Seventeen Members Become Dissatisfied and Sue Out Injunctions—Will Reorganize.

The Independent is sorry to chronicle the fact that there is very serious trouble in the socialist colony of Ruskin. It has hoped that the colony would be a financial success for the members are a hard working people. While we have all the time declared that the principles there advocated could not in the present condition of mankind become universal, yet with picked men, we did believe that it would succeed. It seems however, that not enough care was exercised in keeping out the unworthy. In its account of the matter the Coming Nation says: "Seventeen stockholders, most of whom secured their stock without money and without price, have formed a conspiracy for the purpose of ruining the colony and its paper thus inflicting a great wrong upon the reform movement and much hardship upon 300 honest Socialists, who only ask an opportunity to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow."

In October, 1897, a studied effort on the part of three or four advocates of 'free love' and 'anarchy' to disseminate their theories, especially among the young, called forth a vigorous protest on the part of a vast majority of the colonists. An obscene article on 'Promiscuity in the Sex Relation' and other licentious matter was posted in public places, in the Printery building. Inasmuch as conditions in Ruskin render our young women absolutely free from the necessity of marrying in order to secure a living—there being no distinction in the amount of maintenance paid—it is difficult to understand what good reason could be assigned for this free love agitation. But from the character of the printed matter posted and the statements made by the leaders of this 'ism' in Ruskin, it became evident that their real definition of free love was 'free lust.'

"Now, with all these actions at law, with a number of the investigators of the trouble here on the grounds, participating in the benefits of the association, working when they felt like it—refusing to work when they saw fit, and protected in their actions by injunctions; with others working on the outside for good wages, or conducting business of their own while their families remained here as expensive charges on the colony they were conspiring to ruin; with false reports, slander and misrepresentation being quietly and systematically employed to create jealousies and misunderstandings among those who remained true to Ruskin—with all these obstacles in the way to progress, we submit to our

friends the world over, if it is not remarkable that the colony has continued to grow and prosper. Is it not a proof of the vitality of our principles that more than 100 members and their families are today more united than they have ever before been, and more determined than ever—let come what will—that the Ruskin colony and the Coming Nation shall live? These are facts."

The Independent hopes that Ruskin will come out of this trouble all right. There are many good men and women at Ruskin—honest and hard working—who sincerely believe in the principles set forth in their paper, but they have been induced to admit into their fellowship some of the real socialists—the sort of socialists that the Independent has been fighting. The editor of the Independent knows these people by sad experience. A socialist colony like Ruskin must be entirely homogeneous if it is to succeed. None but those of the very best moral character must be allowed to enter it. In the re-organization let the membership be most carefully scrutinized. Even then there is no safety unless there is some provision made to get rid of dissatisfied members in some expeditious way.

## INSPIRED BY SATAN

In an interview with General Shafter, published in the Washington Post of April 19, he is reported as saying:

"The Filipino is a suspicious fellow just like the Cuban. He can't see the good intentions of this government and he never will until we subjugate him with powder and ball. I have said before that it may be necessary to kill half the population of the islands in order that the remaining half may be lifted from their semi-barbarity to the civilization we are ready to give them."

This humane sentiment will be encouraging to the Filipinos. The suggestion that the United States will go five thousand miles away and kill one-half of ten millions of people in order to relieve the other half of barbarity, could only be made by a man destitute of humanity and inspired with the malice of the devil himself. It was natural for this man to swear that every pound of meat sent to the soldiers was sweet and first-class, but it will be unnatural for any American administration to continue to uphold him and bestow honors upon him while it seeks to degrade the general of the army.—National Watchman.

## THE BANK OF VENICE

A Demonstration of the Correctness of Populist Principles Carried on for 600 Years.

During the contest in congress over the repeal of the Sherman act, John Davis, a populist member of congress, became known to all the other members of the house as a kind of walking encyclopedia on the money question. He was a great lover of books and spent a large portion of his salary in collecting works that treated of political economy and social science. Very often references were made to the bank of Venice by the populist members, but the bankers, of which there were a large number in the house always hooted at the idea that there ever was an institution of the character represented. Finally some gold bug professor of political economy came out in one of the plutocratic magazines and denied that there ever was such an institution.

One day John Davis was hunting around in an old second hand book store and came across a volume that gave a full history of it. It was a book published in London while the bank was still in existence and was written to give instruction to the writer's son in regard to trading in foreign lands. Even after Davis produced the book, the hiring writers for the gold bug magazines continued to deny the existence of the bank. The editor of the Independent was therefore greatly surprised to find a full account of the bank and its manner of doing business printed in the April number of the Chicago Banker. How that article was ever permitted to see the light through such a source is past comprehension. But as it has now appeared in a banker's magazine, perhaps the plutocratic press will cease to deny that the bank of Venice ever existed. Old populists will all remember how we often used to refer to it as a complete demonstration of our theories. The account given of it in the Chicago Banker is here reproduced.

"The bank of Venice was one of the most unique banking institutions in the world. It was the oldest as well as the most peculiar in its method of transacting business. Its organization dates back to the year 1171, when the bank was a 'Chamber of Loans.'

"The bank may be said to have been born from necessity. The emperor of the Greek Empire having antagonized the then republic of Venice, had seized the persons and property of all the citizens of Venice in his dominions. This was at once resented by the republic, and a fleet of 100 galleys was sent to Greece, and the Emperor was compelled to deliver up his prisoners, make amends for their losses and submit to a treaty of peace of the most humiliating nature. In consequence of this war and the vast expense attending the long hostilities with

the Romans, the Duke of Venice, Michel II, was compelled to levy a forced loan on the wealthy merchants and citizens of this queen of the Adriatic. The Chamber of Loans was therefore established, and the citizens were compelled to contribute according to their ability, and with no promise or expectation of the return of the 'loan' except a very moderate interest of four per cent on the amount of their enforced contributions.

"From this inception and by gradual development and improvement, this unique institution became a regularly organized bank, with features as peculiar as those that had distinguished the original chamber. The bank became so popular that all interest on deposits was abolished and the credit of depositors of the books of the bank were quoted at a premium of from twenty to thirty per cent above the current rates of the country. The authorities, in order to avoid fluctuations in these credits, arbitrarily fixed the premium at twenty per cent above the current money of the time, so that 80 ducats in bank funds were accepted as equal to 100 ducats in current money, and a depositor of 800 ducats received a bank credit of 1,000 ducats. This premium remained unchanged for over 600 years, and until the government and the bank were overthrown by the French troops in 1797.

The working of this bank by governmental action and on what was then considered judicial principles, were both unique and successful. It was conducted through centuries of trials and revolutions, with prudence and wisdom. Every citizen of Venice was impressed with the duty of supporting the government with his purse and his influence. He believed it to be a matter of profit as well as of patriotism. According to the operations of the bank, a depositor could surrender to the bank the entire amount of his fortune and still be enabled to use the whole of it in the form of bank funds in his business transactions. He was never able afterwards to recover the coin he had deposited, but he experienced no difficulty in selling his bank credits to other merchants for more than their face value in current coin. These bank credits were made a legal tender in all payments, both of a public and private nature and were exempt from levy and execution for debt. The peculiar manner of conducting business consisted in the fact that no checks were given by merchants upon the bank, no receipts were issued, and when two merchants had been doing business settled up their running accounts and figured their respective indebtedness to each other, the balance was struck in favor of the creditor. For instance, if after a settlement it was found that one merchant owed the other 1,000 ducats. The two men then repaired to the bank, where they found the book keepers arranged in alphabetic order. Approaching the two clerks—for the books of the bank were kept in duplicate—they requested that 1,000 ducats be transferred from the account of one merchant to the other, and this is done. That is all there is to the transaction—the debt is paid, the balance has been adjusted, and nothing but the entries on the book of the bank are in evidence of the fact. The records of the bank were all the vouchers that were needed, and these books were at all times open to the inspection of the parties interested. No coin was ever paid out when once deposited. The government used it in prosecuting its foreign wars. This gave the government a loan without interest, and at the same time gave the people credit money, which was regarded as better than gold or silver, more convenient than currency and which was free from seizure by the sheriff and not subject to the incumbrance by mortgage.

It is a remarkable fact that under the operation of this unique banking system in Venice, for over 600 years not a panic or a financial disturbance occurred. The bank deposits increased with the growth of the public and with the increase of wealth and business. Bank credits were the medium of exchange in business; deposits once made could never be withdrawn and thus contraction was averted and panics rendered impossible.

After a time, however, the bank opened a 'cash office' in which coin and bullion were received and paid out upon checks, as is now done under the modern system of banking, but this 'cash office' was not so favorable, and on two occasions it was obliged to suspend cash payments, but the main branch lent to the 'cash office' its influence and credit, and business was not seriously interfered with.

The bank of Venice had its peculiar rules of book keeping, which received the closest attention. It had regular days for closing and posting its books, which was generally every Friday in the week in which no legal holiday occurred. It also closed for twenty days in each quarter of the year, but these closings in no wise interfered with the transactions of business. Merchants continued their transactions, and only postponed the payment of balances until the bank should reopen for business. The bank allowed six days grace on time paper, and if this paper fell due during the closed season, payment was simply postponed until the day of opening without detriment or increased expense to any one.

It is a remarkable fact that this unique bank of Venice, in which no coin was ever paid out, or even promised to be paid out, became so popular, and its methods so satisfactory, that Venice became practically the clearing house of the commercial world, and all its leading merchants and bankers and princes were anxious to avail themselves of its privileges and safe guards and become its depositors.

The deputy State Superintendent was found sweeping out his office, we think there should be some way of getting the janitors to do this work. The state officers are proud of their new new carpets and wish them kept clean.

## THE DR. ABBOTT CASE

Gov. Holcomb Defends the District Court the Course of Auditor Cornell.

Some time since Dr. Abbott presented a claim to the auditor for \$1,000 additional salary. He has drawn at the rate of \$2,000 a year, but since a new superintendent has been appointed, he has brought in a claim for \$500 additional. The auditor referred the claim to the attorney general, who held that in accordance with a recent decision of the supreme court the claim must be paid. Notwithstanding this opinion of the attorney general, the auditor still refused to pay the claim, and Dr. Abbott has brought suit in the district court. The attorney general does not hold that the claim is just, but that according to the decision of the supreme court it must be paid.

The appeal from the decision of Auditor Cornell in rejecting a claim for \$1,000 made by Dr. J. L. Abbott for additional salary during his last term of office as superintendent at the Lincoln hospital for the insane was brought before Judge Holmes yesterday in the district court. Arguments were made by W. B. Fries and ex-Governor Holcomb for the auditor and by Ed P. Smith and Judge Tibbets for the claimant. The rejection of the claim is based on the fact that the enrolled bill as passed by the legislature two years ago contained an appropriation of \$2,500 per annum while the journals of the proceedings of both houses, it is claimed, do not show the bill to have been passed in this manner.

Attorney General Smyth was to have appeared in the case on behalf of the auditor, but as the attorney general is an opinion rendered to the auditor took the position that the claim was legal the auditor selected other counsel. In this opinion the attorney general held that the journals merely showed the passage of the bill which was originally drawn with a compensation of \$2,000 per annum. The engrossed bill showed the sum to be \$2,000 but in the enrolling room the bill was changed to \$2,500. The holding of the attorney general was that the bill as identified by the files among the state records must be taken, that being the decision of the courts in several states.

Auditor Cornell's attorneys based their contentions on the fact that the engrossed bill contains the sum of \$2,000 and on the fact that Mr. Abbott drew his salary in quarterly installments at that rate. It is contended that the legislature intended to fix the salary at \$2,000 a year.

## THREE POP REGIMENTS.

Their Men and Officers Blasted and Maligned by Republican Writers Command the Admiration of the World.

It is worthy of notice that those regiments which have made the name of American volunteers famous all round the world are all from populist states and were organized by populist governors.

The South Dakota regiment has the warmest spot in the hearts of the people of this state and receives the unequalled praise of all correspondents from other states. It is unnecessary to recall the abuse of the republican copperhead press at the time Governor Lee made his appointments for this regiment. This abuse and misrepresentation continued until hostilities broke out at Manila. The Aberdeen News refused to publish a letter from Major Howard defending himself from a charge of forgery which the News had made. The letter was published in the Ruralist. Now after the regiment and Howard have won imperishable renown, these critics are tumbling over each other to get on the right side.

The gallant regiment from Kansas was organized by Governor Leedy. It is likewise unnecessary to recall the lies told about this regiment and about Governor Leedy at the time of its organization. It was charged that it was placed in charge of incompetents, while capable republicans were displaced, and sent to the front ragged, shoeless and untrained. What is the sequel? No regiment in the world ever did better service. Where was ever a more gallant act than that of Colonel Funston with 125 men who crossed the Rio Grande river and stormed and captured the bomb proof intrenchments?

The Nebraska regiment is not one whit behind. The gallant charge of the regiment on Sunday, April 23, into the horseshoe intrenchment when Colonel Stotsenberg fell shot through the heart is not behind the achievements of others.

These three regiments have borne the brunt of the fighting and have set the pace. There were others present. There were regiments from republican states and regulars, but none of them are the peers of these three. Why not? The regiment that came nearest is from Tennessee—not a republican regiment. It is not accident that has brought these regiments to the front. It is because they were organized for service. Their officers were not men of political pull, nor were of politicians.

Gov. Lee disregarded republican howls and placed Colonel Frost at the head of the South Dakota regiment, though he had to displace a prominent democrat politician to do this. McKinley made this democrat a brigadier general at the request of one Kile, but so one now questions the wisdom of Lee's action. Gov. Leedy disregarded republican

howls when he made the little populist Funston, colonel of the Kansas volunteers, but Funston has proven a gallant leader of a gallant regiment.

The governor of Nebraska disregarded republican howls when he made Stotsenberg colonel and the republican copperheads in the legislature vented their spite by censuring the colonel by a vote of the legislature, which was afterwards expunged from the records by the populist aided by a few republicans who were ashamed of the cowardly act.

We are proud of the many men from these populist states of South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. They are doing their duty, but while they excel all others, they are almost to a man opposed to the unholy war in which they are engaged. They are obeying orders as soldiers must, but they protest nevertheless against the McKinley war of conquest.—Dakota Ruralist.

## A SCIENTIFIC BASIS.

The Movement in Economics and Political Science Will be Attained Through Scholarship.

The readers of the Independent will recall the article by Prof. Stuckenberg of Cambridge, Mass., which appeared not long since. In acknowledging the receipt of Prof. Stuckenberg's communication the editor wrote him something of the movement in the west and the principles we advocated, with a further request that he would continue his articles. In reply the following letter has been received:

"Mr. T. H. Tibbles, Lincoln, Neb. Dear Sir: I was much interested in your letter of the 24th ult., and if I had received it before I sent my article I could have adapted the contents better to the western situation. The movement you describe is of great importance and I hope it will be better understood in the east. There is a scientific basis for the movement in economics and political science, and I trust it will be shown that such a basis exists. The results you have attained practically have, in large part, been gained by European scholars through scientific investigations. In case I visit Lincoln I should like to discuss with you the points mentioned in your letter. With care and wisdom the unjust competition of which you complain—which in reality is not competition—can be overcome. It ought to be done at the next presidential campaign. The east feels that much in the existing condition is intolerable. But the way out? I want to write much, but cannot now. On Saturday, May 6, I leave for Europe to study the great sociological problems in Berlin, Paris, and London. I may be absent four months.

Your paper, except the number with my article has not reached me. I have used some quotations from your letter, without your name, of course, for the Homiletic Review. They may not appear till fall, but when they do a copy will be sent to you. Yours faithfully, J. H. W. STUCKENBERG.

## ROOT OF SOCIALISM

What is Socialism? There is more than one kind of socialism.

Amongst the socialists are men of many minds. There are parsons, athletes, laborers, employers, men of peace and men of force. These men differ on many points; but they all agree on one point.

This point on which men of different views agree is called a principle.

Here in plain words is the principle or root idea on which all socialists agree: That the country and everything in the country shall belong to the whole people (the nation) and shall be used by the people and for the people.

That 'principle,' the root idea of socialism means two things:

1. That the land and all the machines, tools and buildings used in making useful things, together with all the canals, rivers, roads, railways, ships and trainroads in moving and distributing useful things, and all the markets, scales and weights, used in distributing useful things shall belong to the whole people (the nation).
2. That the land, tools, machines, trains, rivers, shops, scales and all the other things belonging to the people shall be worked, managed, distributed and used by the whole people in such way as the greater number of the whole people shall deem best.—Coming Nation.

## THE SAME OLD WAY

Everywhere imperialism adopts the same methods. America has no longer any right to criticize Russia suppressing free speech and a free press. A Filipino editor recently published matter which did not quite suit General Otis, whereupon he was arrested on the charge of circulating 'seditious' matter. His printing plant was confiscated and sold, and he himself fined \$500 and banished from 'American territory.' General Otis said: 'The military government established here will exercise the necessary power to protect itself against libelous and seditious publications and destroy its author's character and weaken its authority.' And this is a 'principle' of Free America! No wonder we cannot ascertain the facts concerning the war with the Philippines. By the time news percolates through such a combination of tyrannous as exists at Manila the truth must be largely eliminated.—Coming Nation.