

WHAT ISSUE?

Editor Independent: What will be the leading issue between the republican party and the reform forces, seem to be a mooted question just now with people and politicians. Democrats as a rule say the trust question will have the right of way. Populists pretty generally agree that the money question, with its double standard, government issue, and greenback ramifications, and other kindred matters will take the lead. While republicans, the sleek, fat, well-fed, happy-go-lucky, get-into-the-band-wagon, fellows generalize and say that "McKinley prosperity," high tariff, and a big gold reserve, will overshadow all other issues. It is plain to be seen that our republican friends, with their usual diplomacy and shrewdness, are intending to straddle and dodge, generalize and temporize, on nearly every issue now commanding the attention of the people. To my mind there will be but one question, if any, which the reform or opposition forces will be able to drive the republicans to a positive clean-cut defense of in 1900, and this will be the gold standard. But of this, even, there is some doubt. To openly defend the gold standard, means for them to explain or apologize for their position in 1896, when they admitted that they were against it; that it was a bad thing for a country and they favored it only as a makeshift, or until we could safely get rid of it. However, their whole course the past three years indicate that they are preparing to do this. Their openly consorting with the notional banks and money lenders and the complete change of front of late of some of their leading papers and politicians, strongly point to this construction. Then if this be the case, and a gold standard plank is inserted in their platform, the money question will at once become the leading issue. And it is my belief that it will. The next republican platform will be one of the most ingeniously contrived literary production yet luminating from a convention of that party. It will endeavor to catch everything (unless it may be the money question) both "a gain" and a "coin". It will have a plank on the trusts which will be calculated to please the people, but it will not be nailed down. It will be adjustable and removable, and like the fruit dealers price list, "subject to change without notice." It will contain an anti-imperial plank; but, like McKinley's reunion declaration: "Forbidding annexation is criminal aggression," it will have no more meaning than the chirp of a cricket, or their profession of friendship for silver in 1896. The tariff question it will have to dodge, because they can not defend the "open door" already established by them in our colonial possessions. To make an issue, one side must favor or suppose and the other oppose. When both sides agree, or pretend to agree, there is no issue defined. The motive of the one or the other, can only be brought into question. It is my opinion that in 1900 our republican friends will attempt to divide all questions with the reform forces except possibly that of finance. Now it looks as though there would be a well defined party of the way. The present apparent "prosperity" among the farming class, is emboldening them to throw off the mask of 1896 and give the gold standard credit for it. When they do this, the issue is formed and with straddles, evasions and meaningless plitudes on the other questions the fight centers on the only one which admits of a stand up and knock down demonstration. Thus, the money question becomes the leading issue and the battle of 1896 is renewed. True, whatever position the republican party may take in convention on the trusts, imperialism, militarism, and other great questions, their motives will be reflected by their work of the past three years. Their honesty will be seriously questioned, and justly so, but issues will not be formed in this way. Mr. Bryan is right in keeping the question of finance to the front, the independent is right in so earnest and ably seconding his efforts. The financial question is foremost and should constitute the leading issue until it is settled and settled right. All other great questions are secondary. A nation is but a great business corporation, and like other great corporations must be prop-

erily financed in order to achieve the desired results. Give us a financial policy for the masses and you will greatly frustrate and retard the selfish and villainous designs of the classes. Yours truly, CLARENCE SELAL.

HE WANTS IT
Editor Independent: I desire to have the Independent continue its weekly visits, and certainly will want it even more than heretofore, during the presidential campaign next year. We hope to see the platform of 1896 reaffirmed and the great leader from Nebraska leading the mustering hosts, whose firm purpose is to re-establish the federal government upon the principles held and supported by Jefferson and Lincoln. JAMES H. POTTER, Danielson, Conn.

A MULLET HEAD
Editor Independent: I was talking with some of my Republican friends and it is astonishing how basely ignorant some of them are, especially the younger ones. They believe there is enough gold in the United States Treasury to redeem all of the silver and greenbacks in the United States. Another told me he could take one of our silver dollars and go to Mexico and buy two Mexican dollars and at the same time he acknowledged that the silver in a dollar was forty-eight cents—acknowledged that their dollar had more silver in it than our dollar and said he could get their dollars for less than he could buy the bullion in them. Now why so many can be made believe such stuff, is something I do not understand. I am a farmer and I cannot see why a farmer as well as any body else cannot see what is a benefit to them, but I suppose it is all on daddy's account. He voted the G. O. P. ticket. H. B. LORAM.

COL. COLTON
Editor Independent: Your issue of June 22, contained the following in relation to Colonel Colton, late of the First Nebraska, which, I think is in need of some correction: "It pays to be a republican pet, especially a McKinley pet. Colton has had a nice snug place on double pay ever since he landed in Manila. He has never smelt gunpowder or heard a bullet whistle. It seems that he had such an aversion to gunpowder and bullets that he refused a promotion so that he could stay out of the reach of them. Now in addition to all the favors bestowed upon him he is made a possessor of several thousand dollars which will be taxed out of the people, in the guise of travel pay. It will be in order now for the Journal to make a few more remarks about populist partizanship in handling the volunteers." While all must admit that the appointment of Colonel Stotsenburg to the command of the regiment was eminently proper, and that there is good reason to believe that no other officer in the regiment, Colonel Colton not excepted, could have brought the regiment up to the state of excellence it attained through the efforts of the gallant Stotsenburg, yet no man can say that Lieutenant Colonel Colton is a coward and say it truthfully. I had the honor to command a company on the firing line in the first fight in which the First Nebraska was engaged and on that occasion Colonel Colton had command of the line and was most conspicuous during the firing. A good deal of powder was burnt that night and a great many bullets and shells hissed and shrieked. On several other occasions he simply proved that he was not a coward. As to whether he is a "pet" or what were his reasons for refusing promotion, I know not and care not, but I do know that you greatly err in intimating that he is a coward. I write you about this matter, not because of the political significance of the above article, but because I believe you have been, to a certain extent, unjust in your criticism of Colonel Colton. Very respectfully, CHARLES A. VICKERS, Madison, Neb., June 26, 1899.

Alice (twenty-six and the youngest of five, all unmarried)—I have just read that a German statistician has calculated that in 3,000 years there will be only one man to every 250 women. The Mamma—Good gracious! You girls must make haste and find a husband, otherwise you have every chance of not getting one when that time comes!—Exchange.

A young physician was once called in by a gentleman who had a very sick mother-in-law. After looking into the case carefully the young M. D. called the gentleman aside and said: "Well, the only thing that I can suggest is that you send your mother-in-law to a warmer climate." The man disappeared and came back with an ax a moment later and exclaimed: "Here, doctor, you kill her. I really haven't the heart."—Oregonian.

A Chapter on Man.—Man that is married to a woman to a woman is of many days and full of trouble. In the morning he draweth his salary and in the evening, behold! It is gone. It is a tale that is told. It vanishes, and no one knows whether it goeth. He riseth up clothed in the chilly garments of the night and seeketh the somnolent paragon whose worth to the south his in-laws posterity. He cometh forth as the horn or ax and draweth the chariot of his offspring. He spendeth his sheekles in the purchase of fine linen to cover the bosom of the family, yet is seen in the gale of the city with one suspender. Yes, he is altogether wretched.—Robert J. Beckett.

PASSING OF PEPPER.

HE NEVER WAS A GENUINE POPULIST AND WILL NOT BE MISSED.

His Recent Utterances Show He Was Never Right on the Money Question—Falls to Correctly State the Facts of Popular History.

It is not quite correct to say that ex-Senator Pepper has flopped back into the Republican party, for it is a fact that Mr. Pepper was never more than about half way out of the Republican party. Right here we desire to call attention to the fact that, as a rule, every man who has been honored by the reform movement with a position of trust, either as a candidate or an official, has proved recreant to the cause he represented. It would seem that a man who is chosen as a standard bearer of reform would be the last man to desert the field, but the facts show that the contrary is true. Why is it? Does the promotion make him a coward, or is his head turned by the temporary adulation which he receives? Does he imagine himself "too great" a man to fall back into the ranks and continue the fight as a common soldier? Or is it the fault of the men who make the selection of candidates? Is it too much the custom to select some man who still has a pull with his old party, with the expectation that he will run better than a radical? However, we are content to simply note the fact and let others figure out the reasons why. And we think it is a fact that nine in ten of those who are specially honored prove recreant to the trust that is placed in them. We could name a hundred of them in the next hundred seconds. Of course the Republican newspapers have been more or less jubilant over the return of Pepper to the fold. They take him, whisks and all, and henceforth he will be a distinguished member of the G. O. P. We remember that when the People's Party was organized Mr. Pepper had to be pulled into the movement by the hair—or whiskers. It was necessary to make him chairman of the Cincinnati conference in order to thoroughly commit him to the new movement. "My quarrel with the Republican party was about the money question, and that is settling itself," says Pepper, which shows that Senator Pepper never understood the money question. The money question is "settling itself" by settling down to the robber system of national banks and the gold basis. Yet it seems to be "settling itself" to the perfect satisfaction of Mr. Pepper. Mr. Pepper is as faulty in his facts as to the organization of the People's Party as in his ideas of the money question. He says: "In pursuance of the agreement at Ocala a call was published some weeks afterward, issuing from Kansas, for a national conference to be held at Cincinnati May 19, 1891, at which time and place there gathered 1,417 delegates, representing the Alliance and other farmers' organizations, Knights of Labor and other bodies of workmen, from 35 states." A. E. Cole and John M. Potter, both of Michigan, went to Ocala, almost for the express purpose of securing signatures to a call for a conference. That call was outlined in the "shanty" at 544 Oden avenue, and the pen that is writing these lines did the work. The two men named secured most of the signatures at Ocala, but as soon as the leaders of the labor and farm organizations tumbled to the fact that it meant an independent political organization they put their heads together and by every trick that they could devise sought to head off the proposed conference. They even pretended to hold a meeting at Jacksonville, Fla., and postpone the proposed conference. They came so near succeeding that the date of the conference was changed from Feb. 22 to May 19. Then old Sentinel, then in its full strength and vigor, made a redhot fight for the conference and raised the money necessary to defray the expenses of the meeting. The Nonconformist and not the Pepper crowd brought the big Kansas delegation to Cincinnati and held it in line against the influence of the Powderlys and Peppers. In short, it was hard work to get Mr. Pepper into the People's party and not very hard work to get him out. He was never worth very much to the movement, and his absence will not be materially felt.—Norton's Monthly.

Corporation Benevolence.
The syndicate which recently gained control of all but one of the street railroads of the federal capital, including most of the suburban lines, has signaled its advent as a public benefactor by reducing the wages of the conductors and motormen on one of the latter from 20 to 16 cents per hour and so arranging the time schedules that it will only be possible for the men to earn the magnificent sum of \$3.44 per week. And as if this were not enough, a new uniform has been adopted, which the employees must purchase from one particular firm, at a cost of \$11.75, which is said to be far more than the clothes are worth. On this suit \$4 must be paid down and \$7 per week thereafter until full payment is made.—Knights of Labor Journal.

Responsibility of the Boss.
This is one of the weaknesses of democracy today—that irresponsible persons rise our people behind the cloak of the "will of the majority," as we see our "bosses" in city, state and nation. Boss Croker is as much duke of New York today as was his often prototype who became king of England, and he is not even responsible to the people over whom he rules so arbitrarily.—Co operator.

A STATESMAN IN A FIX

In speaking to an old German farmer about things in general, he said that the Germans had a great meeting at Detroit, Mich., and passed resolutions against an alliance with England and were bitterly against expansion and against imperialism. A protest was made against the falsehoods, calumnies and malicious agitations given utterance by the yellow press and militaryism and any foreign alliances. So you see Mr. Editor the old reliable Germans are waking up. What do they think of the English gold standard and the bankers to issue the money? At last they are getting their eyes opened to the evils of republicanism. It is about time. They know that their liberty is in danger. It was whispered in Heaven: "Good will toward man." It was muttered in hell: "Destroy those heathen Filipinos." And who shall be responsible for their death? Oh ye who crave for wealth, what sins you will have to answer for. "Wealth and land we must have if we have to destroy the whole race." Such is the will of Mark Hanna the Great. "Great is Mohammed. There is but one God and I am his prophet" and the clergy say Amen. Those wolves in sheep's clothing, like to sit at the rich man's table. What an example we set to the world as a proud republic! Are we proud of our liberty when we refuse to others what we are proud of? What mockery. Mr. Editor, how long can this republic stand when the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer? These must be crushed sooner or later. Will the farmers and laborers be able to stand the burden of this war for more bonds must follow. It is said, Mr. Editor, that in large cities the republicans are in great fear of the result of this war. That they had to call on the bishop and clergy to help them out and plead with them for expansion to make the McKinley administration popular. Will the farmers and laborers whose sons cry from the earth of those islands for his mistaken policy and the evil which has originated from it, cry for vengeance? All this loss of blood and wealth to make a few more weather and—bonds—more bonds. How do you republican farmers like it? See what a pickle the last republican senator got in. I suppose he must be the only one, for the press wars for him, add tries to hide the blunders he has made. Oh, how the press howls and gnash the teeth. It is a nice fix for a statesman to be in, led astray by his blinded friends. He did not go into it mindfolded, he put one foot in and the other had to be coached in by his friends and he got in so deep that he could not get out. Mr. Editor, if old Abe Lincoln was alive to see the predicament the republican party is in how bitterly he would weep. He was a prophet and a great statesman and what he said about the rich is true today. How the old party has changed its face and policy by the help of the moneyed man and clergy! As to the farmers' and laborers' sons in the Philippines—are they fighting for the old flag, or to make the rich man richer. What they are fighting about now is a mystery to me. The generals will get the glory and they will be in no hurry to end it. There is good pay in it. If the officers had less and the privates more, it would soon end. Mr. Editor, your paper, the republicans say, is very radical. It chokes them to take your pills, but they are very sick of trusts and McKinley's expansion, it is medicine that they have to swallow or lose their liberty. More bonds in sight. Farmers dig a little deeper in your pockets, that will be the order from the man you voted for. How do you like it? That's it, put the screws on, bankers and the republican farmers and the small retail merchant can stand it. But they will get what they voted for, they are all alike, friends and foes. Well, we are much pleased with your paper in our neighborhood in Cass county, I hope other farmers are the same. We know who is our friend and we know that you are trying to do what is right. A. FARMER.

Baggs—It is said that Dame Fortune knocks at every man's door. Jagg—Well, it was her daughter, Miss Fortune who called on me.

Clippings.

A GOOD APPOINTMENT.
Governor Foynter's appointment of Wilbur F. Bryant as state insurance commissioner is one of the best made by him yet. We were on the grand jury once when Bryant was the prosecuting attorney and we found him to be pretty much of a man in every respect.—Lyons Mirror.

DON'T.
Don't defend wrong because it has been done by members of our own party; for it is this weakness which gives sustenance and growth to corruption and enables the rank weeds to take possession of the political garden. At the same time don't busy yourself to find small faults among your own people, while there are so many huge ones perpetrated by the opposition which needs exposure.

EMPHATIC DECLARATION.
For the nine years that the Sherman anti-trust law has been on the statute books the goldites have been in power and they have never done a thing to enforce it. Now these same fellows say they will make an emphatic declaration against trusts in 1900. If after having tried for ten years to evade the law the people will not trust them.—Stanton Register.

ONE MAN KNOWS IT.
We know what we are talking about when we say the money power can and does make money scarce or plentiful at will. Yes, we do know and the sad experience of finding it out came very near turning us out of home in 1896. In August 1896 we were just closing a loan of \$1,600, the papers were all drawn up in proper form and the banker said we was glad to get a chance to loan his money out. But lo! and behold when he called at the bank he was not loaning any money out since the 15th of August, 1896, because he had received a circular (from Wall Street) requesting him not to loan money after that date. Some fool of the money power may say perhaps it was not a safe investment. Let us see about that. We were giving a security of one hundred thousand dollars! We were making the amount of interest 10 per cent per annum and that banker has been trying ever since to loan that same money out at 10 per cent. Isn't this a diabolical spectacle! A man refusing to go on with his private business because the money power says "no." Wall street and the great money interests of the east may be benefitted by these tyrannical acts, but how in the name of common sense can the small banks west of the Mississippi ever expect to get their money back by neglecting their business at the mere call of a circular.—Lyons Mirror.

AN APALLING FACT.
The awful, appalling fact is reported that out of nearly 1,400 members of the First Nebraska volunteers only 876 serviceable men are left. Isn't that a useful sacrifice of humanity, that a few sugar, rice and macella speculators may steal a country for the purpose of increasing their gains?—Beacon Light.

WHOSE'S ANTIMILITARY?
The administration has introduced the American people to a magnificent entertainment of blood and slaughter and now it does not know how to withdraw from the least in good form. As dispatches are all captured we get nothing except the most favorable accounts and it is hard to see how those accounts could be more unfavorable than they are now. From the last battle it is difficult to tell whether we are assimilating the rebels or they are assimilating us. It is much easier to yell copperhead than to tell why the purchase of 10,000,000 negroes is a good thing. Therefore, yell copperhead.—Central City Democrat.

SUPERSTITION.
The expression "worth their weight in gold" is a familiar one. It is to be an accepted fact that gold was the most valuable of the precious metals, but now that has ceased to be true. There has recently appeared, under warrant of the highest scientific authority, a statement

of value, based upon the commercial price of various rare metals. A pound avoirdupois of gold is put in this statement as worth \$300; but chromium is worth \$490 a pound, and palladium is worth \$560. Uranium is worth \$980, and osmium is worth \$1,000 a pound; roodium, \$2,500 and iridium, \$3,600. Iridium costs \$4,400; thorium, \$6,800 and rubidium \$9,500 a pound. All these figures seem small, however, when compared with the value of gallium which, according to scientific standard, is worth \$68,000 a pound. So it is shown that even in the metallic world there are many things more precious than gold. In the intellectual and spiritual world there are a great many things gold will not buy. It cannot purchase a good conscience or contentment, or any of those rare and beautiful virtues which are to be found only in the treasure house of the soul. Gold is a good servant but a poor god.—Homiletic Review

How did it come to pass that a metal of comparatively little value, and no intrinsic usefulness, for you can make neither weapon nor implements of it, should come to the mastery of the world which it now possesses and ruins?

PETTY FLINGS.
The Papillon Times has heretofore been looked upon as a very fair paper but at the present time it is putting in its time making little petty flings about Holcomb, Allen, and other fusionists. Edgar Howard is fast losing the place he has held among the populist and democrat papers of the state. He is as often unfair as a republican of the Johnson-Harrison stripe.—Ord Journal.

FATHER HS.
Father—Tommy, stop pulling that cat's tail.
Tommy—I'm only holding the tail; the cat's pulling it.
"There is one thing that can be said in favor of tight boots," remarks a western philosopher; they make a man forget his other sorrows."
Young Girl—What! I shall only have one husband all my life?
Glibby Woman—Well, what can you expect for sixpence, miss?
M'Fingle—Poor bromo! He's gone over to the silent majority.
M'Fingle—Why—I—when did he—be—be dead?
M'Fingle—No married!
Practical Father—If he says he loves you, I suppose he does; but can he support you?
Daughter—Why, papa, you know it wasn't his fault that the chair broke!
Hostess—Can I get you a partner?
Party Addressed—Well, ma'am, nothing would give me more pleasure, but I'm afraid it's no go, as your 'usband engaged me for the evening as waiter.
Mrs. Henpeck (visiting her first husband's grave)—Yes; here lies a hero. You would not be my husband today had he not been killed in the war.
Mr. Henpeck (serenely)—Yes; what a curse war is.
First Boy—Your father must be an awfully mean man. Him a shoemaker and make' you wear them old boots!
Second Boy—He's nothing to what your father is. Him a dentist and your baby only got one tooth.
First Schoolboy—I'd hate to be as hard up as Stump Major seems to be.
Second Schoolboy—Is he hard up?
First Schoolboy—Why, he's been to see me ten times this week to get that shillings I borrowed from him six months ago.
Mrs. Younglove—These women who write about "How husbands should be managed"—do you suppose they manage their husbands any better than we do?
Mrs. Elders—Do I? Why, pahaw! child, don't you know they haven't any husbands?
"Why, grandpa, you used to say that you killed six Indians with one shot; then you cut it down to five; now you say it was four."
"Well, well, my child, I suppose that's because my memory's fallin' a little every year."

Women at Fifty

The most critical period in the life of a woman is that attending the change of life. The symptoms attending this period are fainting spells or attacks of dizziness, headache, general debility, exhaustion, a feeling of melancholy, hysteria, pain in the loins or limbs, hypochondria, etc. The change is a gradual one—far better or worse; for the former if the patient be wise enough to fortify the system against the ravages attending the change. For this purpose no remedy ever discovered equals Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. They purify the blood by acting directly upon the sexual system, lessen the severity of this critical period, and finally leave the patient in the enjoyment of robust health. Mrs. Jacob Worcester, 56 years old, of Bushnell, Ill., says: "After suffering for six years I was cured by a box and a half of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People and am now rugged and strong. I have recommended the pills in many women. They are the only thing that helped me in the trial that comes to so many women at my age."

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