

# The Nebraska Independent.

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## WHAT THE SOLDIERS SAY

Many Privates and the Commanding Officer of the First Nebraska Interviewed

The Rocky Mountain News of August 30 contained the following article. When the First Nebraska arrived in Denver, although it was one o'clock in the morning there were thousands of people at the depot to give them an enthusiastic reception. The News says:

Notwithstanding their gallant record a majority of that regiment is opposed to the administration policy in the Philippines. Out of over twenty approached at random, only two expressed themselves as favorable to the new imperialistic propaganda, and these were officers. The general expression of the men was that it is a war for the benefit of money syndicates, that the Filipinos are fighting for liberty, that we have no business in the islands; and that there was no need of war if we had given the Filipinos assurance of their ultimate independence.

In regard to the islands themselves the universal opinion seemed to be that while a white man can live in them he can not work in them. The climate is such that a white man cannot stand the labor and a white man without money has no business there.

Many of the men talked freely of General Otis, and gave their opinion of his capacity. Generally speaking, these expressions were not flattering. The officers seemed to hold a more favorable opinion of the Philippine censor than the private soldiers.

Colonel Frank D. Eager, the commanding officer of the regiment, is the youngest of his rank in the army, being but 28 years of age. He is a newspaper man, being owner of the Lincoln Independent. "There is some beautiful country in the island of Luzon," said Colonel Eager to a News representative, "some of the most beautiful country that I have ever seen." The only people who can stand to do manual labor in that climate are the natives and Chinese coolies.

"The natives are a very courageous people and in some ways a superior race. I believe them capable of self-government—that is a government sufficient for their conditions. At the present time the followers of Aguinaldo have a government, which, in a crude way, is modeled after ours. It is divided into states, has a sort of postal system, and practically all the islands acknowledge its authority. Aguinaldo is very popular among his followers, and the Filipinos whom we captured seem to be very much in earnest in their fight for liberty. One who was very severely wounded in the leg was brought to our hospital. He was informed that he would have to lose his leg. He acquiesced and told the doctors they could cut off anything but one of his fingers, indicating that with it he could pull the trigger and still fight for his country.

"The Filipino government would have to be stronger than ours, for the reason that they have been used to a strong government for 300 years. "The first mistake," said Colonel Eager, "was in not giving the Filipinos assurance of our intentions. If that had been done, war could have been averted. If we had told them what we told the Cubans there would have been little or no trouble.

"Now we are compelled to establish law and order. The only question is, shall we use force or diplomacy? The administration seems bent on using force but those most familiar with the subject believe that a little more diplomacy would accomplish greater results. "I do not agree with the wholesale denunciation of General Otis," continued Colonel Eager. "He is a very hardworking and painstaking general. He is a master of international law, which fact has saved us from many complications. General Otis has simply obeyed orders. If there is any blame to be attached to the administration in the Philippines, it should be placed at Washington and not on Otis."

In regard to the duration of the war, Colonel Eager believes that with the force being sent over the more important towns can be captured next season. But as to capturing the whole archipelago that is a different proposition. After Luzon is taken there remains Mindanao, which is perhaps a more serious proposition. The Spaniards never did subjugate Mindanao. It may take 100,000 men and years of time to stamp out the entire rebellion.

## THE CLEVELAND STRIKE

The reform press is heavily handicapped in the matter of getting news. We cannot at all depend upon the agencies employed by the great dailies for the news that the workers in the reform cause are mostly interested in is not published in them at all. Who knows, for instance, anything at all about the great strike in Cleveland—one of the most important in its bearing on fundamental principles that has ever occurred in the United States? Some time ago the Hanna republicans, to avoid defeat, secured the nomination of a gold bug democrat by that party and then deserting their own man turned in and elected him mayor. That put the whole city government in the hands of the Mark Hanna plutocrats. The corporations came down on their employes and the people with a heavy hand. Then there was a great strike. What do the people, generally, know about the merits of that strike? The great dailies have told us practically nothing. The first gleam of news about that great contest has come to this office in

the American Federationist, in an article by John J. Kinney, general secretary of the Metal Polishers' Union. In giving an account of what has happened in Cleveland he says:

"Small strikes have been and are numerous here and elsewhere, and some of the really great battles have been fought here in this city, commencing with the great coopers' strike in the early '70's and concluded with the '90's strike three years ago. The greatest strike, however, and which, in comparison with the others, is as the archlight to the tallow dip, is the one now being fought. Not only is it the greatest battle ever fought within the borders of this city, but I believe that it is the greatest conflict that ever took place on American soil between the wage slaves and a heartless corporation.

"The original cause of the strike consisted principally of two grievances. The first was the schedule which necessitated the running of the street cars at the rate of 30 miles an hour, 18 miles in excess of the lawful speed, and which has resulted in the killing and maiming of dozens of people daily.

"Secondly, the inhuman treatment the men were subject to. Many, in order to make nine hours' pay, were compelled to be at the corporation's beck and call for twenty-one hours out of every twenty-four. When once upon a car no employe knew when he would be relieved. To leave the car to attend to nature's wants never meant less than seven days off. When these brutal conditions became known to the public sympathetic way of indignation rolled over the city. The fight then began to be the sole topic of discussion. It grew in bitterness to the extent that a corrupt city council and the entire police force (who, unfortunately for themselves, were under the orders of incompetent and brutal officers) arrayed themselves against the strikers. After two weeks of fighting, the corporation agreed, through its president, H. A. Everitt, to modify its schedule and remove many other irritants and to take back 80 per cent. of all former employes at once and the balance as soon as occasion demanded. The men went back to work. Two weeks of work demonstrated to the strikers that the agreement was only signed for the purpose of getting them back to work. The second strike was then inaugurated, and the greatest contest in the history of the labor movement began. Not, however, between the railroad company and the strikers, but between a corrupt corporation aided by a willing council on one side and an indignant and outraged people on the other. The former soon had eighteen companies of militia in the city. Not to preserve life and property, but to exasperate a corporation ridden and pillaged people.

"The latter having only nature's weapons, of course did not engage in any conflicts with the brass-buttoned whelps who stood behind bayonets and loaded rifles, but at once decided to use labor's silent yet powerful weapon, the boycott. And how has it worked?"

"Militia, police, scabs and all who aided and abetted the unholy trinity of force, greed and corruption, were soon under its ban. Busses, trucks and express wagons were at once put into competition with the privileged monopoly. Nine out of every ten of all the people whose business necessitated transportation from one part of the city to another used and are still using this antiquated method of transportation. The tenth one rides in the busses not from a matter of principle but from a matter of policy. These ancient transportation facilities are being used on ten of the thirteen lines. The other three lines run in the nabob district. On these lines ride the plutocrat and his snobs. To them the corporation points with pride, as it did when P. M. Arthur rode on the scab cars and could see no reason why he should not. They are our 'best citizens' and 'our educated people,' are some of the favorite expressions of our prostituted press.

"They seem to forget that it was the educated, broad-cloth citizens who composed the mob of Boston, that dragged Garrison with a rope around the neck through the streets of that city. "Every car that passes the center of the city from the other lines inspires the people with the hope of success on account of the empty seats. "Victory must crown the efforts of the people when the struggle is over. But then the battle to remove forever the cause that precipitated the strike will be fought. The reclamation of stolen public property will be the slogan. Thousands of people who never dreamed of public ownership of public utilities are now its warmest advocates. The old bugaboo that the city could not manage these institutions has been laid away to rest forever. The people have at last waked from their lethargy and realized that private corporations who control and use public utilities only for their private gain are not only incompetent to manage these institutions, but are brutal and heartless in their method to extort the last cent, the last drop of blood from their victims.

"The lesson has been a bitter one—one that has been fraught with many sacrifices. The lesson has been firmly implanted in the hearts of the workers and the future is pregnant with hope and cheer, and in the worker's horizon, shining clear and bright, the star of public ownership of public utilities sheds its clear and lustrous rays."

## MONEY NOT RELIGION.

Senator Carter Says The American People Are Not Influenced by Religion or Sentiment.

Senator Carter, of Montana, is a fair representative of the greed and commercialism that is the inspiring force of all republicanism in these later years. He is also a fair representative of the way the men of millions who run the party secured their wealth. He began business up in Burt county in this state, where he swindled a large number of hardworking farmers out of their farms and then took a French leave of absence. He would hardly dare to show his head in Burt county today. For that kind of shrewdness he was first made chairman of the republican national committee and then sent to the United States senate. The other day he gave out an interview and this is what he said: "This is a practical age. We are going to deal with this question on the basis of dollars and cents. If the Americans believe that the Philippines are going to help us they will never let the islands go. If, on the other hand they find that the Philippines are a constant drain and a small return, you will find the verdict of the people to be against permanent retention. Neither religion nor sentiment will have much influence in determining the verdict. The great question will be: 'Will it pay?' If we can show the country that it will and I think we can, the American flag will never come down in the Philippines."

## U. P. ANARCHISTS

The time has come when the question must be settled whether the Union Pacific corporation shall rule in this state or be subject to the laws. It will not do to let this matter go farther. Shall the magistrates of that road ride rough shod over the legislature, the courts, and the executive and proclaim itself superior to them all? It has inaugurated a system of anarchy the end of which no man can see. If that corporation is not subject to the laws, no other corporation is and if the corporations are not subject to the laws neither are the citizens of this state. The late actions of that corporation in defiance of the laws has no parallel in this country. If it continues in its course there will be no other way than to call upon the military force of the state to take possession of it and hold it until it is willing to submit to the laws of this state.

The following letter will explain how it has taken upon itself to defy the laws of this state:

LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 11, 1899. Attorney-General, C. J. Smyth, Lincoln, Neb.

Dear Sir:—I beg to inform you that in performing the duties of State Oil Inspector, for the state of Nebraska, I find that the Union Pacific railroad company has bought and received from the Standard Oil company the following cars of oil:

Date	Car No.	Gallons
May 27	4655	5139
June 17	2385	6108
June 27	3675	6100
July 22	4869	5091
Aug. 9	2292	6859
Aug. 24	1292	7887

Total 38,184 gallons or 734 barrels. The above oil has not been inspected under the laws of this state. The deputy oil inspector for the Omaha district, Charles E. Fanning, called on John W. Griffith, the purchasing agent, and was refused. I am of the opinion that the law is being violated in this instance. Believing that corporations as well as individuals, should obey the laws of this state, I therefore ask your assistance in the enforcement of this law.

Very truly yours,  
J. N. GAFFIN,  
State Oil Inspector.

Every word the republicans say against Holcomb's use of house rent money, blackens the character of General Thayer. If my nearest friend and political leader had ever taken a cent of house rent money and I had sanctioned it, I never would say a word about the other fellow, for doing the same thing. Out of respect for the old hero we ask everybody to stop their gab about governors house rent.

Expansion is a dangerous thing. The skin is liable to rip.

## News of the Week

The interest of the week has been concentrated on three things, namely: The trial of Dreyfus, the attempt of the British government to practically annex the Boer republic in South Africa and the startling news from South America which is to the effect that a union of all those republics is being formed to protect themselves against the McKinley policy of conquest.

The attention of the whole world is riveted upon Rennes where the court martial was still engaged in the second trial of Dreyfus. There has been practically a stenographic report cabled every day to the dailies of the United States, which filled from three to six columns of fine print. The writer of this has carefully read all the testimony offered, besides the incidents and gossip which has been sent and he has failed to find anything in the testimony that would convict a man in a court in this country. The whole world has come to the conclusion that Dreyfus is innocent. The result was that when the verdict of guilty was announced by a divided court—five for conviction and two for acquittal—there was a cry of "shame" raised in the capital of every civilized nation to which was added the protest of every newspaper outside of France except one or two printed in Rome.

The form of the verdict shows fraud on the very face of it. Dreyfus is found guilty of treason "with extenuating circumstances" and sentenced to ten years detention in a fortress. If he was guilty of treason, which the court by this act says it does not believe, there could be no extenuating circumstances and ten years detention in a fortress is not the punishment provided for treason by the law of France.

To an American accustomed to the forms of law in this country, the procedure in the Dreyfus trial is wholly incomprehensible. If a justice court in the backwoods of Arkansas should conduct a trial in the manner of the Dreyfus trial, it would become the subject of ridicule the whole country over, and justice courts sometimes permit some very queer things. The witnesses instead of being confined to what they knew about the guilt of Dreyfus were permitted to make long arguments, lasting for days giving their impressions, beliefs and relating what they had heard. On the other hand when the counsel for the prisoner undertook to cross-question the witnesses, whenever a question was asked that had a tendency to get at the truth, the court refused to allow it to be answered. At last the court refused to subpoena witnesses for the defense or allow their testimony to be taken by a commission.

What was the result of this course of procedure upon the civilized world? A universal protest and the expression of anger and disgust. Public expression was given to them everywhere in words like the following: "The civilized world is aghast at the crime of five abject judges." "Rennes is France's moral Sedan." "Five unhappy judges have already taken their places in the judgment of the human race, besides Judas, Pilate and Judge J. Fries." "We have been watching the sick bed of a great nation, not knowing what new and deadly form the malady would take." The Rennes verdict will live forever as the supreme effort of human wrong headedness. "We do not hesitate to pronounce it the greatest and most appalling prostitution of justice the world has witnessed in modern times. All the outrageous scandals which marked the course of the trial pale into insignificance beside the crowning scandal of the verdict."

In such expressions as these the press of Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, England and the United States unite. The whole human race everywhere, utters its protest. Why? Because it is evident that a great wrong has been done. In this universal protest there is hope, not for Dreyfus alone but for the whole human race. It is a defiance to the doctrines that have been preached in this country so prominently of late that a nation can defy the law of righteousness and live and prosper. As sure as a nation adopts that course retribution will follow. There is no way of escape for it.

Will France escape? There is no possibility of it. Retribution already threatens from many different quarters. Her great exhibition is in danger. From every country comes notices of withdrawal, by individuals and by concerted

action of intending exhibitors. Soon these notices will come from governments that have appropriated or intended to appropriate large sums. Her finances will become disarranged, her markets curtailed and distress at home will result.

Some time ago the Independent announced that the South American republics were uniting in some sort of combination against the United States. The imperialist papers took especial pains to make an emphatic denial of any such purpose on the part of those republics. Now comes the news that diplomatic circles in Washington are greatly agitated over the subject. The people of those republics have been watching the course of events. The doctrines of might, regardless of right, that have recently found advocates in the leading republican papers, are having their effect. This nation is becoming the terror of all the small nations of the earth. What else could be expected when they see the doctrine that one nation has the right to buy another nation proclaimed by the president of the United States and defended by his cabinet and the great dailies of this nation?

The people of the South American republics are also right when they view with alarm the visit of W. E. Curtis to their shores. He is not there for the simple purpose of writing articles for a Chicago paper. There is not a sensible man in the United States who believes that. He is there as the well-paid agent of the gold ring of Wall street. If the money power concludes that it can extend its human slavery by the annexation of South American republics, there is not a republican paper now supporting the McKinley administration that will not advocate it. The position of the administration, the abandonment of the declaration of independence, the doctrine of conquest, the throwing aside of the advice of Washington, the effort to establish a great standing army and a great navy, the overthrow of the Monroe doctrine, in fact the complete change in the policies of this government which McKinley has inaugurated, all, or any one of them, is enough to give alarm to the South American republics, and they are only acting in the way one would expect them to act under the circumstances.

According to the latest dispatches the people of England have entered a very thorough protest against Joe Chamberlain's effort to practice McKinley republicanism in grabbing the Boer republic in South Africa. Here again the common people have intervened and pronounced against Senator Carter's theories, which are the theories of the McKinley administration, that a nation can live and prosper while discarding the law of righteousness. Over there as here, if the world is not to be thrown into a series of wars of conquest such as has not been seen for four hundred years, it will be the voice of the common people that will put a stop to it. Concentrated wealth urges it on.

The effort to raise an army for a war of conquest upon the Filipinos still meets with many discouragements. The latest report of the number of enlistments in the ten new regiments is as follows:

38th	429	430	142
39th	240	441	230
40th	164	458	310
41st	148	468	327
42d	356	475	196

That no more men in a population of 70,000,000 people could be induced to enlist, when the time and effort that has been expended in getting these recruits is taken into consideration, is the most astonishing thing in connection with this whole business. There was scarcely a man who did not believe when this call was made that the regiments would be filled within a few days. When one considers that there are thousands of men out of employment, that the young American is full of enthusiasm and always crazy for adventure, and then looks at the above figures he can come to no other conclusion than that; the American people are almost universally opposed to the McKinley policy. If there were a war on hand for liberty and not for conquest more than half a million young Americans would have tendered their services before this time.

## WHAT A SOLDIER SAYS.

R. L. Miller, now editor of the Burwell Mascot, has a few words to say about the different wars that McKinley has been waging during the last two years. He enlisted when the war with Spain first broke out, and no doubt nine tenths

of those who enlisted with him, hold the same opinion. He speaks as follows: We have been asked what we thought of the war and if we were against it why we enlisted in May, 1898. We enlisted to fight cruel and bloody Spain for humanity's sake. To help make free our near neighbors, the Cubans. When they were freed from their oppression and tyranny, peace was declared between this country and Spain.

So far we endorse every action of our president and our government in declaring and carrying that war to a conclusion. But we do not endorse the action of the president in fighting a weak nation of people at the extreme side of the world, who ask for their freedom and have been fighting for it for a hundred years.

We are opposed to a war of conquest, extermination and imperialism for personal and political greed of a president and his few followers. We look upon it as a disgrace for a president to offer to protect a Sulu sultan in slavery and polygamy in return for a small support in a far away land. For these views if we are a copperhead, it is better to be a copperhead and be for the right, against slavery, polygamy, oppression and a censored press and speech, than to be an imperialist upholding the censorship of the press, defending and creating big trusts, causing our noble flag to float over a foreign land of polygamy, fight a war of conquest to enable a few would-be American barons to establish colonial coolie labor colonies.

## A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

J. Sterling Morton, of the Nebraska City Conservative is among our oldest and best friends in Nebraska, the family acquaintance dating back: "o'er the sands of time" for more than forty years but—we were going to call him a tyrant—we won't do that but we will say that we believe that he is laboring under a guilty conscience, that nearly every word he pens for the Conservative is done for spite, revenge and jealousy—jealousy because Nebraska has produced other great leaders of men besides himself. In his last Conservative speaking of trusts he says:

"By preventing the overproduction they will prevent the stagnation that always follows and by holding industrial and wage prices from unhealthy fluctuation they will tend to keep all prices more steady, including those of farm products."

Great heavens! Advocate a policy to lay farm lands idle to grow up weeds and ruin the land for future crops, to make idle farm hands, to let the plows and the binders rust and rot. Great policy, isn't it? Why not a deavor to make some policy that will prevent men and corporations from vitally stealing all the profits of the products of the farms thus making thousands of dollars for those who never did a day's work in their lives, except to plot and plan to grow rich off of the toiling masses? Then again Mr. Morton says: "As long as the wage worker is getting a living wage the farmer will get a living price for his products."

And again we exclaim: Great heavens! Advocate a policy that will only produce a mere living! Why should the farmers toil all the days of their lives and never make anything but a mere living, while the corporationists and the money power gang pile up their millions? Answer this! Then this great stage of "guilty consciences" says that "overcapitalized trusts will have their day and collapse." Thus intimating that after the collapse the laboring classes will get their just dues. But what a weary waiting it will be. In the meantime how many thousands of poor people will go hungry and suffer for the actual necessities of life? How many poverty ruined homes will there be? How many untimely suicidal graves will bedeck our fair land in consequence of despondency brought on by just such persecution and tyranny of the evil effects of the money power?—Lyons Mirror, (r. p.)

## JACOB NORTH.

In the death of Jacob North, Lincoln has lost one of its old and most substantial citizens. He came to this city many years ago and began work as a practical printer. For a time he was foreman at the Journal office but afterwards established a printing house of his own which has become one of the most successful in the west. He knew his business from top to bottom and by close attention to it, he left in it upon a sure foundation. He recently went back to England on a visit, but his health continuing to be poor he returned much sooner than he expected to. He leaves a large family—three sons and four daughters, all of whom have been closely connected with his business. He was an exemplary man in every way and many—very many—sincerely mourn his loss. He was 61 years old.

Can a boy king and his regent mother sell nine millions of people and deliver them as a flock of sheep and deliver? Is such a bill of sale legal or just? The forts, arsenals and other public works that Spain had erected were mentioned in the bargain but neither the territory nor the people.