

The Nebraska Independent.

Consolidation of The Wealthmakers and The Lincoln Independent.

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GERMAN EDITORS PROTEST

They Declare that Within the last Year a Policy has been Adopted Contrary to the Declaration of Independence.

The following document was handed to the editor of the Independent while passing along the street in Lincoln. It was printed in German. It is submitted to the readers of this paper in a literal translation made by one of the best German scholars of Lincoln. We are informed that it has been largely circulated among the Germans of this state. The address is signed by ten German editors in Nebraska (out of twelve), among them republicans too. The pamphlet contains the speech made by Mr. Schurz on the 14th of January, 1899, before the congregation of the university of Chicago, in full. It contains further quotations from Washington's Farewell Address; also, under the title "Was Aginaldo our Ally?" the story of the relations between the Filipinos and our troops from April 27, 1898, (meeting of Pratt and Aginaldo) until February 5, 1899, (day after the outbreak of hostilities). A third chapter is entitled "Are the Filipinos Savages?" which contains the opinions of Admiral George Dewey, General Lawton, Anderson, Whittier, King, Funston, Commander Ford, ex-Minister Barrett, Consul Wildman and Consul Williams on the Filipinos and on Aginaldo. The final chapter, "The war is unjust!" contains quotations from the sayings of prominent Americans about this war or about a policy of conquest in general. Here are quoted: President McKinley, Admiral Dewey, General Otis, Karl Schurz, Senator Hoar, ex-Governor Boutwell, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. The first page is devoted to a protest of the German editors of Nebraska, and is as follows:

A GERMAN VOTE OF PROTEST.

To the voters of German descent of the State of Nebraska:

"The federal government of the United States has in the last year adopted a policy inconsistent with the principles of our Declaration of Independence and with the views held so far by the American people. Contrary to the principles of our Declaration of Independence, that a government can derive its just powers only from the consent of the governed, the president has waged war against the Filipinos, who but shortly before had freed themselves from Spanish foreign rule, and wishes to force a free people against its will under American rule. As a hundred years ago the citizens of the United States bought with their blood the freedom of this country, as in 1813 hundreds of thousands of the best men of Germany went to war against the French conquerors, so today the Filipinos stand ready to sacrifice life and fortune for the independence of their fatherland, and the soil of their country is already red with the blood of their sons.

"On our part the unhappy war has demanded many sacrifices too, and in many homes, in our state also, parents deplore their sons fallen in a foreign country. In money this war has cost the United States far over \$400,000,000 already, many more millions of dollars will be wasted and the people will have to carry the burden of taxation many years yet. And what for?

"Will the American people, which has sacrificed more than two thousands of its own blood to free Cuba from foreign rule, now rob another people of its independence? Is the purpose of this war worth the life of a single son, a single brother or the immense costs? Is that purpose worth to burden the United States from now on into the farthest future with the oppressive burden of a large standing army?"

"Many Germans left their old country in order to escape military service. We, Germans, know how hurtful it is for the development of a country if so many thousands of men fit for work and in the prime of manhood are taken from their civil occupation, and we know what the maintenance of a large standing army costs. And the history of many centuries has taught us how dangerous a standing army is to the liberty of the people. For the native Americans soldiering and warfare is something new, but we, Germans, know the bad consequences of it from our own experience.

"In the month of November there will be elections in Nebraska, Iowa, and Ohio. In Nebraska one judge of the supreme court and two regents of the State University are to be elected, in Iowa and in Ohio the governor and all the higher officials of those states. The result of this election will serve as a direction for the administration. If the citizens give great majorities to the republican state candidates, the administration will regard that as a proof that the voters have decided in favor of militarism and the war of conquest. If, on the other side, the republican candidates will be beaten with big majorities the administration will change the course and the republican congress right after convening will restore peace.

"In Nebraska M. B. Reese and Silas A. Holcomb are candidates for the office of judge of the supreme court. Both are honest, conscientious and capable men. Holcomb has been governor for four years, and has given to the state the best and most honest administration it ever had since its foundation. Reese has been judge of the supreme court for years, and has shown himself one of the most capable and most conscientious judges. The voter might therefore vote with good conscience for either one of them.

"This is not the time to discuss gold or silver, free trade or protection—there will be chances for that more than enough next year. But whoever desires to give his ballot the significance of a protest against militarism and against the war of conquest ought to vote, in Nebraska, for Silas A. Holcomb and

write a cross after his name. But this is not enough. The German-American can easier judge the present critical situation on account of his experience in the old country, than can the masses of natives, and so everyone is bound in duty to enlighten others and to warn them against the dangers and sacrifices the present foreign policy requires and will require.

"We, the undersigned editors of German papers in this pamphlet, submit to the German-Americans a speech of Mr. Karl Schurz, our countryman and one of the greatest statesmen, and without regard to party affiliations we ask all to spare no effort that on the 7th of November against the present foreign policy a protest of such strength should be given that the government at Washington should know that the American people, and especially the German-Americans, do not want any militarism nor wars of conquest.

The will of the people is the supreme law—but the will must be expressed on election day by the ballot.

FRIEDRICH SERNACK,
Editor *Lose Blaeter*, Omaha.
ESSER SCHALL,
Publisher *Staats Anzeiger*, Lincoln,
BRUNO HERMANN,
Editor *Freie Presse*, Lincoln.
J. B. WINDOLPH,
Publisher *Anzeiger und Herold*, Grand Island.
F. L. BRANDES,
Editor *Nebraska Courier*, Grand Island.
EMIL SCHULTZ,
Editor *Nebraska Post*, Beatrice.
J. K. JOHANNES,
Editor *Nebraska Biene*, Columbus.
M. T. STEWEL,
Editor *Germania*, Bloomfield.
CHAS. WEISS,
Editor *Cedar County Baechter*, Hartington.
C. H. SHAEFFER,
Editor *Platte River Zeitung*, Fremont.

If Thunder Maker Harrison has the original letter that George Abbott wrote to the editor of the Independent, he or some one else stole it out of a locked desk the night of the fire. And in connection, it might as well be said that the only person who saw the letter written by Mr. Abbott to Chairman Edmiston, a garbled portion of which appeared in the *State Journal* and which Mr. Abbott denounces in this issue of the Independent, was one Samuel Lichty. Two days after Lichty called and asked to see the letter the garbled account appeared.

The editor of the Independent will speak at Benedict, York county, on the evening of Nov. 2d.

Tenth Conspiracy.

The Independent has had something to say upon several occasions about the attempt to fool all the people all the time by controlling all the avenues of information through which the people may be informed. It seems that thinking men in all parts of the country have felt the power of this conspiracy. The following are some words of Flavius Van Vorhis, written and published last March.

It is not too much to charge that there is today a conspiracy against public information and public intelligence; and that this administration is a party to it; so plain to be denied. The internal avenues of public information are controlled by dangerous monopolies, that stand as censors not only to determine the information the public shall have but to give it a coloring according to their interests. The external sources from which and the avenues through which we must receive information concerning occurrences of great interest to us and importance to the country are controlled by the administration. Whatever of truth there is in what has reached the light, few are foolish enough to believe that the country has been permitted to know the whole truth. Any attempt to inform the people is thus made difficult, but, sure as the days go by, the time is coming when they will know the truth and when those who have deceived and betrayed them will stand face to face with the consequences of their misdeeds.

Idiotic Preachers.

Some time last year, Bishop Doane of the Episcopal church sent Rev. Mr. Peyton to the Philippine Islands to investigate and report upon the prospect of protestant missionary work there. Mr. Peyton has returned and says there will be no opening for protestant missionaries until the American troops are withdrawn from the islands.

When the American army entered Manila there were only one or two saloons, while now there are 430, all of them typical places of the western frontier, and the worst of the situation is that the saloons are quite respectable in comparison with other pest spots either planted or kept alive by Americans. The result is that "Manila is a hell hole."

It is alleged that the friars have taken advantage of the shocking immoralities thus presented to warn the Tagalos what they may expect should the island become Protestantized. For this reason Secretary Peyton is of the opinion that nothing can be done in the Philippines in the way of missionary work until the conditions which now characterize American control are removed. It is practically useless, he says, to do anything until the United States troops depart or reform.

The pretense of McKinley has been that he was bound to establish law and order in the Philippines and he has made the territory that we occupy "a hell hole." The ministers who have been preaching biosis in the hope of extending their church influence in the islands are told that the policy adopted will forever exclude them. What a set of fools they have made of themselves!

THE MAN WE NOMINATED

An Untarnished Record, the Best Governor Nebraska Ever Had, a Lawyer and Judge, We will Elect Him Again.

Six years ago Holcomb was selected by the populists as their standard-bearer in the campaign for supreme judge. That was before the days of fusion with the democrats, and the democratic nominee for supreme judge drew enough votes away from Holcomb to elect the republican nominee. But the populists were determined to secure the services of Holcomb as a state officer, and the following year they nominated him for governor. He was even then serving as district judge out in the Twelfth judicial district, and the people of that district knew of his sterling honesty, straightforwardness and undoubted ability. Populists all over the state had become acquainted with him during the canvass of 1893, and they recognized in him a man who would make himself felt in the world.

So he was nominated for governor. The democrats began to see the folly of acting as cat's paw for the republican monkey, and they were willing to join with the populists and help rescue the state from republican misrule. Governor Crouse, the best republican governor who had sat in the gubernatorial chair for years, was not in good standing with the manipulators of his party, and they turned him down for Thomas J. Majors, a notorious "heeler" for the railroad corporations. Rosewater, of the Omaha Bee, had been set down upon by the republican ring on several occasions, and, thirsting for revenge, he fought the republican nominee and supported Holcomb.

Holcomb was the only one of the fusion nominees who pulled through, and early in January, 1896, he took his seat as governor with six republican executive state officers. These republican officers began a systematic effort to cripple Holcomb's administration. Every conceivable mean thing was done. The state legislature, an intensely partisan republican body that year, went panting mad in their effort to "put the pop governor in the hole." But through it all, Governor Holcomb pursued a dignified course, and came out unscathed.

The people's independent party had demanded in its platform that the unvested permanent educational funds be invested in state general fund warrants. The supreme court had already decided that such warrants are "state securities" within the meaning of the constitution, hence, a proper investment for the idle educational funds. At every meeting of the board of educational lands and funds Governor Holcomb presented a resolution requiring the state treasurer to invest certain sums in state warrants, but the republican members of that board were stubborn and voted down the resolution every time. The then attorney general even went so far as to render an opinion for the board in which he reversed the supreme court of Nebraska, and decided that state warrants are not state securities within the meaning of the constitution.

The people's independent party had also demanded an economical administration of state affairs. By virtue of his office, six state penal and charitable institutions came under the control of Governor Holcomb and his appointees, and seven institutions remained in control of the republicans. Governor Crouse's management of these same six institutions had shown a marked decrease in cost over previous administrations, yet notwithstanding this fact, these six institutions, under Governor Holcomb's careful and businesslike management, during the years 1895 and 1896 showed a saving of nearly \$100,000 over Governor Crouse's management in 1893 and 1894. A similar comparison for the seven institutions under republican control in 1895 and 1896 showed a saving of about \$6,000. Under complete republican control the cost for maintaining an inmate of a state institution averaged 55 cents per day. Under partial populist control during Governor Holcomb's first term, the cost was 47.7 cents per day. And under complete fusion management during Governor Holcomb's second term, the cost was 41.8 cents. In other words, the republicans, from 1892 to 1894, needlessly wasted about \$320,000 of the people's money in maintaining the state institutions; and the reform forces, headed by Governor Holcomb, from 1895 to 1898, maintained the same state institutions in better shape, with more inmates, for about \$370,000 less than the republicans would have spent had they been in power. This splendid record for businesslike management, begun under Silas A. Holcomb, is being continued by Governor Poynter and the other state officers in the same admirable way.

But why dwell at length on facts that thinking people understand thoroughly? Populists, democrats, silver republicans, all know these facts. So do the republicans themselves. Everybody who reads knows that both terms of Governor Holcomb were marked by a strict adherence to economical—but not parsimonious—conduct of the state's business. He was just as careful in spending the state's money as in expending his own—and this irritates the ring republicans who had always made it a rule to spend every dollar the legislature would appropriate for them and pile up a lot of deficiency claims beside. It is because Holcomb really guarded the state's every interest with jealous care that ring republican "heelers" make vicious and unwarranted attacks upon him. He has established a precedent in state government which the people will insist on having followed by all succeeding administrations—and that will be mighty awkward for these ring republicans if they should ever, by any combination of circumstances, gain control of the executive offices.

Silas A. Holcomb's ability as a lawyer is unquestioned. He has been tried as a district judge and his record is clear.

He has been tried two terms as governor and the splendid record he made is triply summed up in the phrase, "The best governor Nebraska ever had." He is a man of exemplary habits, pure in his private life and with a record in public life untarnished in the slightest degree. He is broad minded, clear headed, a deep thinker and an earnest student at all times. He has the judicial mind, careful, deliberate and painstaking; he must have all the facts before him and all of the law bearing upon the question; then he decides deliberately, conservatively and justly.

The supreme court as at present constituted has one representative of the B. & M. railroad, one representative of the U. P. railroad, and one representative of the people. After January of next year, with Holcomb to sit with Sullivan, the people may congratulate themselves upon having two representatives upon the supreme bench—two judges who will perform their duty fearlessly, earnestly and justly, keeping ever in mind the maxim, "equal rights to all, special privileges to none."

SEND HIM TO GOVERNMENT.

The Washington Times Declares that J. Sterling Morton Should be Excluded From the Society of Gentlemen.

"Away back in the year 1889, when Mr. William J. Bryan was a poor and struggling young attorney in Lincoln, Neb., with a family to support, and few briefs with which to maintain the balance of trade and the equities between himself and the butcher and baker, he committed an error of judgment which must ever be a stain upon an otherwise bright escutcheon. He was without enough to look upon one J. Sterling Morton as his friend—a thing that individual was never known to be to any living being—himself in the way of selfishness and animal cunning, alone expected. But the youthful barrister did not know this. Being in straitened circumstances and thinking he saw a chance for a pot boiler, in the shape of a position as secretary of the state board of transportation, he sought to enlist the good offices of the person Morton, and addressed to him a letter in which he explained that he was not actuated by political ambition, which Mr. Bryan even then seems to have suspected would be resented as a dangerous thing for a young man to have in that neighborhood, but by a desire to earn the salary attached to the office. In the confidence of private correspondence he did not stop to guard the words in which he described his situation and needs, because he assumed that he was writing to a gentleman, and hence a man incapable of putting a false construction upon them, or any construction other than that Morton knew from previous oral conversations with the writer, to belong to them. Mr. Bryan no doubt wrote what he is now, with much attempt at sensation, charged with writing. Here is the letter:

(Mr. Bryan's letter is printed in full and then the Times comments as follows): "This impresses us as being perfectly legitimate, frank and manly. The young man was thinking of his wife and baby, and of his rent and grocery bills. His political ambitions at the time were confined to placing himself in a situation to take care of the first and pay the second. Morton understood this thoroughly. Now after a year he resurrects this old letter and huris it at Mr. Bryan, who in the interval, has incurred his displeasure by achieving a position before the American people, to which he never could aspire, the brilliant idea being that it will cover the latter with shame and dismay."

Those who know J. Sterling Morton intimately will not be in the least surprised at his action in this matter. The only wonder is that, having such a firecracker in his pocket, he did not explode it in 1891! But this is a small matter. Mr. Bryan's friends could easily submit the document in question to a committee of gentlemen, of undoubted standing as such, anywhere, and ask it to decide whether the circumstances surrounding the letter did not exonerate the writer from any violation of moral or ethical sentiment; and, whether the action of the receiver, in his hostile publication of a communication received and accepted in the confidence of friendship, would not justly bar him from the society of gentlemen?"—Washington Times.

If Judge Reese, in 1889 and 1890, really needed his wife, C. B. Reese, to render him "clerical assistance" at the state's expense, how does it come that all the clerical work of preparing and signing vouchers and receiving and cashing the warrants made out to C. B. Reese, was done by the chief justice himself? How easy it would have been for C. B. Reese, wife and "clerical assistant," to make out her own vouchers and receive and draw the money upon her warrants, while the chief justice was buried to the eyes in dusty tomes and great piles of manuscript neatly prepared by the aforesaid trusty "clerical assistant."

Perhaps H. A. Reese, son of the chief justice, may have rendered some "clerical assistance" to his father, the great constitutional lawyer. But the chief justice took great care not to let the boy get his fingers on very much of the money which the taxpayers of Nebraska had to pay for such clerical assistance. Six warrants, amounting to \$274, were issued by the auditor to H. A. Reese, but Harry never had the pleasure of signing his name on the back of but one of the lot. "H. A. Reese, pr. M. B. Reese" appears with marked regularity as the endorsement. A son old enough and smart enough to act as clerical assistant to the chief justice of Nebraska ought to be old enough and smart enough to draw his own wages from the state. The chances are that Harry knew nothing about the warrants being issued.

GOOD POLITICS

What Bryan Said in 1893—His Judgment of Senator Hill's Methods and the Result.

In 1893 the writer of this was in Washington. One day Senator Hill of New York made a speech for the repeal of the Sherman act and in the interests of the banks and gold standard from beginning to end. Mr. Bryan came over from the house and listened to the speech attentively from beginning to end. In one of the corridors I met Mr. Bryan and walked with him over to his rooms which were not far away. As we walked along we talked of the speech. Mr. Bryan asked me what I thought of it. I said in reply, it might be good politics for Hill to make such a speech, coming as he did from the stronghold of the gold standard—as a senator from New York. Mr. Bryan said most positively: "It is not good politics. Nothing is good politics that is not based on truth and justice. You think that the speech is bad economics and I am sure it is worse politics. Time will prove that it is bad politics." Of course I cannot repeat Mr. Bryan's exact words but that is the substance of what he said. It made such an impression on my mind that I have never forgotten it.

The other day the state committee of Mr. Hill's state held a meeting. Mr. Hill was there and the New York Journal gives the following account of some of the things that occurred at the meeting.

Frank P. Mott, proxy for Thomas H. Dowe, of Chautauque, plumped upon the desk this resolution:

The Democratic State Committee of New York recognize that William Jennings Bryan is the natural approved leader of the democratic party in the nation.

The Democratic State Committee hereby expresses its solicitude for his health and strength, and, while he is temporarily stricken in the people's battle field, they beg to assure him of their loyalty and love.

Mr. Croker listened intently to the reading of the resolution, and when Secretary DeForest had finished took the floor and said:

"I heartily approve of the resolution and every word it contains. If Mr. Bryan is nominated for the presidency I shall certainly support him and do all I can to secure his election. I believe that the rank and file of the democratic party of this state and nation demand his nomination."

For a moment Hill seemed completely unnerfed. In the midst of a hubbub, created by the demands of several committeemen for the floor, Senator McCarrren was heard to exclaim: "Yes, let's endorse Mr. Bryan this minute, tonight, and let it go forth to the world that the democracy of this state will never falter in its support of that magnificent democrat and American, William Jennings Bryan."

Cheer upon cheer greeted Mr. McCarrren, and more cheers were given for Bryan. In the uproar John L. Shea, proxy for Hugh McLaughlin, got a chance to yell: "This committee cannot afford to oppose any resolution endorsing Bryan for any honor he may see."

By this time Hill had somewhat recovered himself. He was apparently angry through and through, however.

Walking away across the space which divided him and Mr. Croker, he leveled his fist almost under the latter's chin and burst forth:

"What I have to say to you, Richard Croker, is that you can change your mind once, you can change your mind twice, you can change your mind three times if you wish. You have already changed your mind twice within six months."

"But I warn you that if you change your mind again after this you will lay yourself open to another charge of insincerity."

Mr. Croker laughed, stood up, and, looking Hill straight in the eye, retorted: "Well, you are something of a lightning charge artist yourself."

(This was doubtless a reference to the time Senator Hill was a free silver man. During this speech that he was making in the senate for the gold standard, several attempts were made by different senators to read extracts from a strong silver speech that Hill not long previously had made in New York, but he would not permit it.)

The resolution was finally adopted by a vote of forty-five to three. It was supported by Croker, Murphy, the solid New York and Kings delegations and a number of member from up the state.

Hill declined to answer to his name on roll call.

Very soon after this Hill had A. A. McLean move a reconsideration of the vote by which the Mott resolution was adopted, and had submitted another matter, simply congratulating Bryan on the splendid work he had done for the party.

This was defeated by an overwhelming vote, and Hill subsided for a while. A number of committeemen crowded around Mr. Croker and congratulated him upon his outspoken championship of Bryan.

He received the handshakes and good words with pleasure, to some saying simply: "I meant every word I said," to others he remarked: "Why, when else but Bryan is there to nominate?"

Later, however, Senator Hill succeeded in carrying through the Campbell scheme for a permanent Democratic State Headquarters.

Senator McCarrren, anticipating that

Hill might insist upon their establishment in Albany, offered the amendment that they be located in this city. Everybody was pretty well tickled out, and finally the original plan was adopted, the location of the headquarters being left open. Hill will try to have the headquarters at Albany. During the pending campaign they will be in New York.

The editor of the Independent has no love for Dick Croker and despises his political methods. The story of how Croker came to be a Bryan man is as follows: He had Tammany, he supposed, fixed up for some other candidate. The first thing that had a tendency to open his eyes was the cheers for Bryan when the Texas orator broke over bounds and mentioned his name. Then Croker went off to Europe. He soon began to receive letters saying that clubs were being organized all over the state pledged to support Bryan for president. Croker wrote to find out who was doing the organizing. He was told that no one could find out—that there did not seem to be any man at the head of the movement—the people all over the state had, simultaneously, begun to organize these clubs and the most active had never been heard of in politics before.

Croker soon found out that the people were going for Bryan and if he wanted to be in it, he had better get in the band wagon himself. He jumped right in. He gave out an interview before he landed from the steamer that he was for Bryan.

News also comes that clubs of this sort are being organized all over the New England states. There don't seem to be any man or set of men at the head of the movement. It is spontaneous.

Cause of Alarm.

Lovers of liberty in every land are struck dumb at the abandonment by the authorities in this country of the declaration of independence, the fundamental principles of the constitution and the reversal of all those things that Americans have heretofore held sacred. The Manchester, England, Guardian, comments upon the trend of events in this country as follows:

"If there are two things which every American, good or bad, must regard as definitely wrong; they are the institution of slavery and the government of a people against its own will. To abandon these two convictions is to stultify the whole of the Republic's past history and to convert all its heroes into hypocrites and impostors. Both these convictions have been sacrificed in the Philippines. A war of liberation has rapidly degenerated into a brutal war of conquest; and the only successes that have been gained have been gained among the Mussulmans of the south by the recognition of the institution of slavery. It is no wonder that the American people are becoming alarmed at the rapidity of this political degeneration. Better leave the Filipinos to stew in their own juice than rescue them at the cost of sacrificing every political ideal."

Outgrown Him.

Gov. Lind, in welcoming Wm. McKinley, president of the United States and Emperor of the Philippines, got off a bit of superb irony that had a sting in every word. He said:

By our growth and development the mission of the American volunteer has come to an end. For the purposes of conquest and subjugation he is unfit, for he carries a conscience as well as a gun. The volunteer soldier has always stood for self-government, liberty and justice. With your generation he will pass from the stage of our national life. His fame and his example will continue the heritage of our people—the theme of story and song. May the spirit which has actuated him ever guide our people and temper the strength of the nation which has outgrown him with the eternal principles for which he has fought and died."

The Flag Hauled Down.

The latest statement of the Alaskan boundary dispute is that a provisional line has been agreed upon pending the final settlement of the contention. The "temporary" line, it is understood, concedes territory to Canada which was previously ours, and this surrender is made while the extreme apostles of expansion are roving up and down the land vociferously declaiming against the lowering of the flag upon any territory where it has ever been unfurled, and branding any proposition of that sort as treason. The flag has been hauled down in Alaska and withdrawn from territory held by us ever since its purchase from Russia by an unchallenged title.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The flag has been hauled down. Who hauled it down? McKinley. What flag took its place? The flag of Great Britain.

Annex The West.

In Arizona alone there are 3,000,000 acres of lands that only need water to make them the "garden of the earth," and in the great West there are 75,000,000 acres of such land. With water this new useless land would be worth in its virginity at the lowest calculation \$5 an acre. Here would be \$375,000,000, and people tell us the Government could not profitably undertake the building of storage reservoirs to develop this land, but can spend hundreds of millions to conquer the overpopulated tropical islands of the China seas. That is a regular mullet head idea of commercial supremacy.