

The Nebraska Independent.

Consolidation of The Wealthmakers and The Lincoln Independent.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Several letters have been received from the readers of this paper regretting that this feature—"News of the Week"—is sometimes omitted. Perhaps the complainants do not stop to consider the amount of work it takes to prepare it. The mere writing of the column is a small matter, but the preparation requires several hours of work each day in the week. To each day look through six or seven great dailies, containing column after column of untruth, falsehood, innuendo, baseless conclusions, worthless opinions, slander and vituperation, and sift out the facts, is no small job. Since the system of Russian censorship has been adopted both in this country and in England the task is still more difficult. Yet to make the news of any value, all that work must be done.

As regards the news from the Philippines and South Africa, the censors have allowed but very little to get over the cables. There has been an advance made in the Philippines and Otis has captured Mrs. Aguinaldo's wardrobe. So important did this seem to the commanding general that he had it cabled to this country at \$2.00 a word. He also captured a few prisoners and bought thirty rifles from some of the insurgents at \$30.00 apiece. The usual cablegram was sent announcing that Otis had Aguinaldo and his army surrounded, but later it was said that the surrounding lacked several degrees of being perfect, and Aguinaldo and his army had again escaped.

Not a word of reliable information has been received from South Africa. All sorts of rumors have been cabled. The British censor does not let anything come that bears on the real facts. It appears from what has been published that the Boer army has made advances into the British territory, and that in the last ten days they have fought one battle in which they were successful in destroying a British armored train and capturing a large number of prisoners. In another battle they seem not to have been so successful, suffering some heavy losses. They have Gen. White and his army locked up in Ladysmith and are closely besieging the place. There has been no communication with him for several days. It seems that Krueger is making good his statement that if the British undertook to destroy the two South African republics they would have to pay a price that would stagger humanity.

The most interesting news has been connected with the manipulations of the funds in the U. S. treasury for the benefit of the old gang of thieves who raked off \$9,000,000 of profits under the Cleveland bond deals. It appears that the determination of Gage to buy \$25,000,000 bonds was made known to a few friends of the administration in advance of the public announcement. The putting of several millions of dollars in the banks of New York would of course effect the stock market—money would become easier and men could hold on and make a raise. A certain line of stocks were bought by these friends to whom the advance information was given, and when the money from the treasury came pouring into the banks, they sold out on a rising market. The rake-off amounted to a little over \$48,000,000. It is thought that not to exceed seven-teen persons were allowed to participate in this deal. J. Pierpont Morgan and five others who were in the Cleveland deal were among the number. Here is a nice little lot of millionaires made in one day. The number of paupers that it will produce has not yet been made known.

Then look at the matter in another way. The banks of New York were on the verge of a collapse. Two days more of such pressure as they were under and half of them would have been forced to close their doors. This was the effect of trying to do business at present prices with a volume of money entirely too small. To prevent a panic, the secretary of the treasury offers to buy \$25,000,000 of bonds, pay for them out of the surplus in the treasury, and thus get these millions into the banks. How did that surplus happen to be in the treasury? The government sold \$200,000,000 of bonds about a year ago and put that money in the treasury. It sold those bonds at 104 to get the money in and now it buys bonds at 112½ and 111 to get it out! A mullet head ought to know that that kind of financiering could be improved upon.

In connection with the above, the treasurer of the United States issued his annual report in which he complains of the national banks, because they did not issue currency to relieve the stringency. He says:

"In a few states and two great cities

the national banks were entitled to add to their outstanding notes these vast sums: New York state, \$41,702,200; Illinois, \$9,192,680; Ohio, \$23,690,020; Pennsylvania, \$37,682,130; New York city, \$29,181,080; Chicago, \$15,925,700. The aggregate capital stock of these banks was \$29,357,413, and circulation was \$81,104,603. The national banks of Chicago have a right under their charters to put out \$15,925,700 additional circulation. The assertion is loud and persistent that the western states are suffering by reason of a lack of currency. At the same time in these states, including the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and the territories of New Mexico, Oklahoma and the Indian Territory, the national banks could under the law issue additional notes to the amount of \$18,285,245. The existing national banks of the United States have a right under their charters to add \$345,020,413 to their circulation.

Then the treasurer gives the national bankers a mild scolding for not issuing this currency and points out to them that this course will add influence to the demand that the government should issue more paper money, which he evidently thinks is a most horrible doctrine.

Now, here is another demonstration of the truth of the populist doctrine concerning the republican plan to make an "elastic currency." The elasticity always works the wrong way. The time when the currency should be put in circulation is the very time when the banks will contract their issues. There is not an instance in all history where they have failed to do so. If they did anything else they would bring on the panic on the wings of the wind. Mr. Roberts may scold the national bankers all he pleases, but not a bank will issue more currency until times are better. Every economist in the whole world, of any authority, has time and again pointed out the fallacy of this doctrine of an elastic currency, to be made so by issues of promises to pay money. What is wanted at such times is not promises to pay money, but the money itself.

The latest news from Washington is to the effect that as soon as congress meets a desperate effort will be made to pass the Hanna shipping bill, by the side of which all modern steels fade into insignificance. J. Pierpont Morgan's \$9,000,000 steal in that bond deal, is pin money beside this colossal plan that Mark Hanna has formulated.

It is announced from London that the British will hang every man other than Boers found fighting in Paul Krueger's army, without judge or jury, as soon as they can capture them. There are 4,000 American miners who enlisted in that army of their own free will. McKinley will never raise his hand to protect them.

John T. McCutcheon sends a dispatch from Manila under date of November 21, in which he says that Aguinaldo has escaped with his whole army and practically all his supplies, and that the Filipinos are appearing in large force to the south of Manila around Cavita. Lawton has disappeared in the north part of the island and nothing has been heard of him for several days.

The news, this, Thursday morning, is to the effect that the Boer army in South Africa has made an advance and there are thousands of them in the rear of the English forces. It appears that there is a general uprising of the Dutch in Natal. The English have ordered the mobilization of another division of troops. Krueger is keeping his word as to what it would cost England to destroy two republics.

Another astonishing bit of news is that the Russians have at last occupied Herat, the long disputed "gateway to India." For twenty years, whenever a Russian force was moved toward that place, the whole British nation has got up and howled, manned their ships and threatened war. It seems that the Russians have taken advantage of Joe Chamberlain's foolishness and gone without opposition. This may change the whole face of affairs in Africa and India.

Senator Hayward improved some during the first part of the week, but had a relapse and at last accounts was in a very serious condition.

In this week's issue are several advertisements that deserve the attention of our readers. The Armstrong Clothing Co. of Lincoln, the Nebraska Clothing Co. of Omaha, Herpolsheimer & Co.'s department store, and Miller & Paine's dry goods house, are among the largest business institutions in the west. Each of them have a valuable and interesting advertisement in this paper. It will pay you to read them and send in a mail order. Money saved is as good as money made. Try it.

AGUINALDO PROCLAMATIONS

They are Manufactured with so Little Skill that they will Fool Nobody.

Of all the silly electioneering schemes ever devised, the manufacture of Aguinaldo proclamations is the silliest. According to the republican literary bureau Aguinaldo is the greatest proclamation manufacturer that ever lived. It is a good thing that the Dingley bill provided no schedule of tariffs for proclamations of the Mark Hanna fund would be greatly depleted. The following is the latest—there may be two or three more before the readers of this paper see it in print—but up to the present writing it is really the very latest:

Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 18.—Aguinaldo evidently took a great interest in the recent United States elections. In a proclamation, a copy of which was received via the Empress of China, he says that in America there is a great party that insists upon the government recognizing Filipino independence. "They will compel their country," says the proclamation, "to fulfill the promises made to us in all solemnity and faith, although not put in writing. We therefore pray God on high that the great democratic party in the United States will win the next election and that imperialism will fall in its mad attempts to subjugate us by force of arms. We may base our hopes on the right thinking of the American people. There are, moreover, some Americans here in the Philippines who joined our side because they disapprove of the war, which Atkinson calls criminal aggression, and these Americans, when offered the chance to return to their own camps, have declined. Oh, my beloved compatriots, turn your eyes on the loveliness of our virgin mother country, and in filial pity bring each of you a handful of ashes to scatter over her naked beauties to hide them from view lest they excite the passions of strangers and cause her to be outraged."

Any man who could believe that a Spanish speaking Tagal could write in that style could believe that Mark Hanna is a saint or that he never had a mortgage on McKinley for \$180,000. Just think of a Spanish speaking writer using such phrases as "right thinking." Look at the construction of the sentences and compare them with anything Spanish that has ever been put into English. The Independent advises the republican bureau that if it intends to keep up the manufacture of Aguinaldo proclamations, that it call in some Spaniard, tell him what they want and when he has prepared it in Spanish, translate so as to keep some of the forms of expression common to that language in their production. It doesn't do any good to put out proclamations where the fraud is so very apparent. It's a waste of money. It does not fool anybody.

UNDERGROUND RIVERS

The Persians Have Utilized Them to Fertilize their Country, but the United States Spends its Money in Wars of Conquest.

The great subterranean rivers of the West, which slowly wend their silent way, hundreds of feet below the earth's surface, have their counterpart on the other face of the globe. The Caspian Sea is fed by many subterranean streams. These streams, like those of our own arid regions, take their sources in the mountains which are covered by perpetual snow. The water from this melting snow percolates downward to a deep-laying, impenetrable strata, where it begins its underground passage to the sea. Nearly the whole of Persia is naturally desert: There is scant rainfall and the rivers are so few that irrigation from that source is very limited and serves only a small portion of the country. Centuries ago the Persians stumbled upon the idea of tapping the underground streams or springs at the bases of the mountains and the transition of the Persian desert into a land of great fertility is due to this constant source of water supply. But water has been obtained only through the most indefatigable labor.

A well is sunk in the foothills to a depth of anywhere from 100 to 300 feet. When this taps the vein of water, another shaft is sunk a couple of hundred yards further down the slope, which is in fact a gentle descent of the table land from the mountains. A canal or subterranean aqueduct is then excavated between the two shafts. At a similar distance farther down another shaft is sunk and likewise connected with the second; and so the canal or "connaugh" as it is called, is carried for miles. As the connough is given just fall enough to allow of a free flow of water it gradually approaches the surface until when it draws near to the land to be irrigated, the stream comes forth a pearly, bubbling brook, dancing in the brilliant sunshine as it rushes on its mission to redeem the sterile waste places of nature. For miles it goes through what was at one time a desert but which under the magic influence of this elixir of life, becomes a garden of the gods. It feeds fountains around which in languorous indolence repose the dark-eyed beauties of the harem; it furnishes the baths, those luxuries of the Orient; it waters wonderful gardens where, in dazzling profusion, bloom throughout the year, the rose, erysanthemum, narcissus, tuberose, dah-

lia, white lily and aster, besides fantastic shrubs and rare exotics, heavy with rich perfumes. Here grows to perfection the apple, pear, peach, nectarine, pomegranate, filbert, melon and grape, and many unknown tropical fruits in such abundance as to bewilder the traveler.

Where the soil admits of percolation, the land is flooded in small squares from lateral ditches. On such lands, barley, wheat any other cereals are grown to great perfection. Again, irrigation is accomplished by a network of ditches and furrows. The mills which grind the grain are run by the current of the great irrigation ditches.

The cities of Persia secure the water necessary for domestic use from these ditches. The capital, Teheran, has no less than twenty large artificial streams flowing through it, constituted in the manner described from the underground currents.

The land lying adjacent to these canals is entitled to the use of the water, the amount being regulated by law. Each district is under an overseer whose duty it is to see to the proper application of the water and that there is no waste.

Wealthy private individuals have also constructed ditches for their own use, furnishing the water to their tenants; but land contiguous to their canals is entitled to certain water rights even if not belonging to the owners of the ditches. Title to the use of water is inherent in the land and each section of land is certain of its water supply.

When the immense amount of labor involved in sinking shafts and connecting them by underground tunnels is considered together with the fact that only the most primitive methods are yet in vogue, the angle Saxon can but marvel at the industry displayed in the accomplishment of such gigantic but necessary tasks. Some sections of Persia, especially those along the natural rivers, could add to their irrigated area by the use of storage reservoirs; but the greater part of the country has no flood waters to store, the melting snows but serving to keep alive the underground streams. Even in this despotic tyrant-ridden country, it has been found best, nay, necessary to maintain government supervision of irrigation waters, which is the life-blood of the nation. With a loose system of water control, the land would again be desert.

In this country, plutocracy, with a madness that is incomprehensible to any man who has not been inoculated with its virus, plunges onward, spending millions in cruel wars of conquest, while one-half of the money thus expended, if used in irrigating the rich plains of the west, would furnish happy homes for millions. How long will it be before the people put a stop to this waste of blood and money?

The Patriot's Pledge

The following pledge is being signed by tens of thousands all over the eastern states:

We, the undersigned voters, pledge ourselves to each other and to the American people to subordinate all other political issues in 1900 to preservation of the free popular government, founded by Washington and saved by Lincoln; to oppose to all costs the degradation of this democratic republic into a military empire, and to cast our ballots in favor of only such party platform and candidates as shall be thoroughly loyal to the declaration of independence, the constitution of the United States, and the equal rights of all mankind.

Looting Permitted

Army Secretary Peyton of the Episcopal Church, charges the army in the Philippines with universal drunkenness, and here is a statement by one of the most reliable war correspondents in the Philippines declaring that looting is being carried on under direction of the officers. After a few years of such service what sort of citizens will these men make when they return to their own country. If war in the Philippines "is hell" when these men get back we will have a little of it ourselves. The following is what this correspondent says:

Looting was permitted without a reprimand. With the exception of houses that were occupied, there was scarcely a shack that was not visited. There was one officer, whose name will ever remain unwritten, who went into a nipa hut. On the wall was a camera, or gentleman's shirt, of the kind worn by the Filipinos. The officer took this from the peg upon which it was hanging. Beneath there was a silver watch, open faced, and running. The shirt was quickly hung back and the officer looked around to see if any one was looking. By this time several men not bearing commissions were climbing the bamboo ladder to the door. It would have been a bad precedent to set; the taking of anything before the eyes of the soldier. So the officer waited until the men should go away. But they did not go. A fellow officer called from the street and invited the gentleman who told the story to go down the road a little way on business connected with the command. The officer in question complied, but when he had gone past two houses made an excuse that he must return for a moment. When he reached the hut no one was there. Neither was the watch nor the shirt. One resident had a good library. There were books of travel, history and some fine geographies and maps. The soldiers could not carry them away, so they started their camp fires with them. The soldiers dressed in all the finery of the Filipino pop. They wore silver buckles on their hats. The insurgent soldiers had been driven from the towns, but they hid in the fastnesses of the jungle and two hours after the rear guard of the American army had gone they were back in their old trenches and trying to restore the confidence of the frightened citizens. HARRY A. ARMSTRONG.

OLIVE SCHREINER

She Gets part of Another Dispatch Through to the New York Journal.

The English censor is fully equal to our own in the Philippines. Olive Schreiner has been trying for a month to make a statement to the world on the conditions in South Africa. She has been able so far to get only a few words through. Her last dispatch was stopped in the middle of a sentence in the way that the first one was. It appeared in the New York Journal last Sunday and is as follows:

Cape Town, Nov. 13. To the editor of the Journal.—Three acts have taken place in the African tragedy.

The first act was played ten years ago, when the charter was granted to a ring of speculators, and the principle governing English rule in South Africa for the first time was departed from, and imperial rule allied itself with the speculations of the share market.

Five years ago came the second act, when the raid on Transvaal gold fields by the Chartered bank was organized and failed.

Since then the same ring has prepared for the third act by a colossal system of lies regarding the best governed mining camp in the world. They have produced their bloody war, in which the flower of the English army and the noblest men born on African soil are falling.

But the English gentlemen of the sword will recognize the African gentleman of the velvet, albeit their coats are of different cut, and it is not from the brave English soldier that there will come those lies regarding the most magnificent little Teutonic folk on earth, which have wrung the heart of South Africa and—

The message ends abruptly in the middle of a sentence. Evidently it has met the same fate as the first, which Olive Schreiner sent to the Journal a few weeks ago. It was cut off by the British censor. The cable operator at Cape Town concluded the dispatch with these words: "Message cut off here. Signed by Olive Schreiner."

Farmers Club Meeting

The members of the Lancaster county Farmers' Club assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard on November 16. A large number was in attendance considering the close confinement of the farmers to their courtyards.

A fine dinner was served, after which a good program was listened to, which was opened by singing. Mrs. Drain then read a selection entitled "Dreams and Visions." A long recitation was next given by Miss Elva Wescott. Select reading, Miss Hattie Mann. Mr. Cook then made a fifteen minute talk which was quite interesting. After considering some cordial invitations for the December meeting, it was decided to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Auckerman.

Election of officers was then in order. It was moved and seconded to suspend the rules and elect by acclamation: Mr. Leonard was unanimously chosen for a second term, the first being so faithfully and successfully executed. Mr. Paswater was also re-elected for vice president. Clyde Hollenbeck was elected secretary and Miss Elva Wescott assistant.

After the election of officers Mrs. Hotchkiss treated the club to a very nice piece of music.

The subject for discussion was "stock raising vs. general farming." Mr. Hurd favored farming in this state, while he thought stock raising was more suited to the western states.

Mr. Leonard was strongly in favor of stock raising in the dairy line, although he thought dairying linked with farming was the most profitable. Mr. Syford then opposed this view of the question showing that dairying produced so much extra work, especially for the woman. He favored raising and shipping beef stock, it being easier and more profitable.

Mr. Cash believed the large amount of wealth produced from stock raising was from the dairy cow.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard for their hospitality, the members departing to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Auckerman, Dec. 21, 1899.

Following is the program: Music; select reading, Mrs. Drain; recitation, Miss Hattie Mann; select reading, Mrs. Britton; recitation, Clyde Hollenbeck; music. Question for discussion: What price can a man afford to pay for land in this community for the purpose of mixed farming? Opened by Leonard, Hermance, Mann, Lature and others.

The cash now in the treasury amounts to \$4.55, received of Mr. E. L. Bauman. The reports heretofore published by the late secretary, Mr. E. L. Bauman; casting uncomplimentary reflections upon Mr. W. D. Mann and others, have been expunged from the records, and the secretary ordered to give the same a wide publication in the newspapers of the county. I. N. LEONARD, President.

CLYDE HOLLENBECK, Sec. ELVA WESCOTT, Assis. Sec.

The Minister Fleed.

Editor Independent: Rev. Mrs. Calkins, from Michigan, held a series of suffrage meetings at the Methodist church in Aurora last week, commencing on Thursday night. The minister was to open the first service after prayer meeting. When prayer meeting closed, the minister showed the white feather and that was the last seen of the pastor of the M. E. church during the two days the suffrage and reform meeting lasted in his church. Mrs. Calkins talked on woman suff-

rage, reform and loyalty to the flag of the free, and against the republican whiskey trust and all the evils resulting from the republican rum traffic, and of disloyalty to the constitution and the declaration of independence. We have other churches in Aurora, but the only ministers faithful at this woman suffrage meeting was J. W. Zimmerman of the United Brethren church and Rev. Frank of the Evangelical church. One other pastor was at one meeting. I send you a letter just on this subject:

MANUELLE, IND., Nov. 6, 1899. "Well, how do the people out in Nebraska like the war in the Philippines by this time? I was at Manila six months, and say that there is not a ghost of a show for Protestant reforms until the United States withdraws her army from there. It is simply an army of drunkards.

"Think of an army of drunkards from civilized and christian America putting to shame the heathen of these islands because they can talk christianity! How will it boom the administration? Is it any wonder that a day of thanksgiving should be named? It surely ought to be a day of fasting and prayer and lamentation.

"Tours for a free government to all people. Army Secretary Payton, By J. F. Spriggs, W. M. LARIN.

Aurora, Nebraska.

REDUCING THE PUBLIC DEBT

The Falsehoods and Frauds Perpetrated by the Big and Little Republicans Press.

The republican newspapers are very much alike. Big and little, they all follow the same course. They never make a truthful statement of facts or undertake to construct an honest argument. The following examples will illustrate this statement. A short time ago the New York Sun, which is one of the big guns, published the following:

"The defects and disasters of peace under Cleveland have been exchanged for the victories of war and the triumphs of common sense under McKinley, whose administration has had two foreign wars to carry to a successful and honorable end, and yet at this stage of its course reduces the national debt by twenty-five millions of dollars! The secretary of the treasury's announcement yesterday that he desired to buy in government bonds to that amount is pregnant with instruction to all."

A little one, the State Journal, comments upon that statement after the following fashion:

"Five years ago President Cleveland was selling United States bonds, drawing the alarmingly high rate of 4 and 5 per cent interest. This was in a time of peace. Before the new administration has been in power three years it stands ready to begin paying off the national debt, in spite of tremendous extraordinary expenses, and naturally offers to call in the Cleveland bonds first in order to stop this great interest. The New York Sun feels called upon to sing a little paean in honor to this great national achievement."

To fully understand the duplicity of these two, the big gun and the little gun, reflect that both of these papers were ardent supporters of the Cleveland policy that they now denounce. That shows their consistency and how much weight should be given to what they say now. McKinley is reducing the national debt! What are the facts? In the beginning of his administration, he issued, against the unanimous protest of every populist in the land, \$200,000,000 of bonds. These bonds he sold on the market at 104. In this way he got a large and unnecessary amount of money into the treasury. These bonds that McKinley sold for 104, are now worth about 130. Having borrowed the money and put it in the treasury at 104, he now gets it out by buying other bonds at 112. He created a debt of \$200,000,000. He now proposes in this way to reduce it \$25,000,000! Now, where is the great glory that the Sun talks about resulting from the reduction of the public debt?

Turn back now and see what the little one says on this subject and compare it with the facts. Cleveland did sell over \$200,000,000 of bonds. They did draw large interest. But this act of Cleveland was heartily commended by the little one at the time. These bonds drawing this high rate of interest were sold to a syndicate of which J. Pierpont Morgan was the agent—the man to whom the financial plank of the republican platform was submitted before it was adopted. Only a favored few were admitted to this syndicate, the chief among them being the house of Rothschilds. No one else could get one of these bonds. At the very time that these bonds were being delivered to J. Pierpont Morgan and his friends, for 104, they were quoted on the market at 118. In this way this syndicate had a rake off of about \$9,000,000.

The little one and the big one, in congress and out, in New York and San Francisco, in Lincoln and Omaha, all, without exception, gave all the aid they could to the carrying out of this villainous scheme. They sang "peons in honor" of it just as they are now doing for this other scheme. The honor of it consists in selling bonds at the beginning of the year at 112 and buying back a portion at the end and calling that a reduction of the public debt!

Big and little they are all alike. The Independent commends them to the kindly consideration of his Stanic Majesty and hopes that he won't reward them for more than 25,000,000.

If you have \$2 you want to put into shoe go to Sanderson's, 1213 O street they will give you a first-class shoe for that money.