

The Nebraska Independent

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GOVERNOR POYNTER.

In the trying and difficult situation that a vacancy in the United States senate placed Governor Poynter, he has conducted himself with dignity and great discretion. His action from the very first was along the line of those principles that the populist party has so long advocated. What ever his personal desires might have been in making the appointment, he laid them all aside, and called upon the people to express their desire in the matter and put into practical operation that principle of the party that declares in favor of the referendum. The people responded immediately and began by the thousand to express their opinion through letters. There was no one to lead in the matter—there was no plan to circulate petitions—every man for himself simply sat down and wrote a letter expressing his opinion. Nineteenth of these men expressed their wish that Senator Allen should be appointed, and as soon as that became evident Governor Poynter appointed Senator Allen. The action of the governor is commended by all. In very trying circumstances he has acquitted himself well.

The banner of the republican party bears but one legend. It is "Gold and Empire." All the legends of freedom, equal rights and government by the people and for the people have been wiped out. It is now simply "Gold and Empire."

It may now occur to some of the advertising agencies which refuse to place advertising in the columns of the Independent because it is a populist paper, that they are working a big swindle on their customers. One thing is certain, if the advertising agencies don't find it out their customers will.

There has never been a run on the treasury for gold since the Chicago platform was adopted. When the gold standard men had things all their own way and when Cleveland—the greatest gold standard advocate of them all—was president, were the days when the run on gold was experienced.

President McKinley denounces the trusts. There is no doubt that President McKinley is just as much against the trusts as he was against the gold standard when he denounced Grover Cleveland and said that Cleveland wanted to make money dear and everything else cheap. There can be no doubt that he is.

The Independent does not claim to be the "whole push," but it modestly suggests that the hundreds of letters that poured in to the governor's office in answer to a request in its columns, might have had some influence in securing the appointment of W. V. Allen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Hayward, and further, deponent sayeth not.

Low prices to foreigners and high prices to American consumers is the economic policy voted for by every supporter of the republican party. Meat dressed in Omaha sells in London at a less price than it is sold to the people in Omaha. So it is with almost every article exported from the United States. Now here is treason to American interests, not simply a false cry. The traitors to America are in the gold standard, trust, tariff baron party, lead by Mark Hanna.

A republican staggered down the street. An aching head, unsteady feet. "That suit-suit, how is it, too. Both have wives—no a than two. What shall the party do? The suit—let's all right—Roberts we will fight."

"Then stopped and thought and pondered—Agreed, swore and swore. 'Tain't straight, somethin' 'bout polygamy—His forty wives and three. How is it? Jes let me see. Yes, it 's all right. You see. Go for forty, not for three. And whoop it, for the g. o. p."

Our readers who are delinquent on subscription are requested to be kind enough to make a remittance at this time. The business manager extends this invitation as politely as he knows how. If the mere invitation fails to do the business, naturally he will be compelled to try a more heroic treatment. "A word to the wise is sufficient," or should be sufficient. When you remit please mention this editorial in order that we may know whether it paid to have it set up or not.

ONE YEAR OF IMPERIALISM.

One year of imperialism. What is the result? An army scattered over the islands of the seas in the occident and orient, men wading through swamps chasing fleeing natives who always outrun them, an enormous expense taxed against the people—nearly a million a day—to keep up the game and what is the result? The secretary of the treasury sums up the cost this way: Expense of military establishment 1899 \$229,841,254.47 Expense of military establishment 1898 91,992,000.29 Increase \$137,849,254.18 Secretary Gage's report further sets forth that the revenues of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1899, were \$610,982,004. The expenditures for the same period were \$700,003,564, leaving a deficit of \$89,111,560.

Every sort of a war tax has been imposed, the Dingley Bill is still in force and still there is a deficit. It is the largest deficit ever reported by any secretary since the civil war. Then look at the expenditures. Over \$700,000,000! Nearly two million a day! It is a greater daily expenditure than was made when we had a million soldiers in the field in the civil war fighting the bloodiest battles of all history.

One year of imperialism! How do you like it? You have not felt the full effects of it yet. These forces work slowly. When the heavy hand begins to press still more hardy, how will you like it then? Tax yourselves two million a day and turn the major part of it over for the support of an army and navy. How much prosperity will be left for you and your children?

But this is only the beginning. It will soon be three millions. Secretary Long wants eighteen new warships. McKinley wants a large increase in the army. The list of civil officers will have to be largely increased. Three millions a day will not pay the bill.

Is there no escape? None at all unless it is found in the patriotism of the common people. If they sit supinely down, imperialism will become the permanent policy of this government. If you have a desire to leave a country where your children shall have an opportunity to live some other life than that of a tax paying serf, you must put your armor on. It will not do to sit down now. Get these facts before your neighbors. They are ignorant of them. The republican papers do not publish them. Give them your Independent or get them to subscribe for it.

The plan is to not only make you pay this enormous amount of taxation, but to double the burden again by making money dear and all how have cheap. The gold standard is to be adopted. The contract with the men holding over a billion of bonds is to be changed and the value of their bonds doubled. Taxes are to be taken off the national bankers and placed upon you. The telegraph and express company have already been exempted and you are paying their taxes today. The incomes of the rich have been exempted by a decision of the supreme court declaring the tax unconstitutional. It will all have to come out of you and men of your class. Two millions a day and soon to be three millions! You will have to get the money by raising wheat, corn, cattle and hogs. Would it not be good business sense to get out and work a little to stop this drain of cash that will be made upon you, by distributing information among the people. Even a mullah head would not vote for this thing if he knew the facts. Put the facts into his possession.

LEARNING SOMETHING.

Every gold bug paper in the United States has been engaged in the task of demonstrating the great prosperity of this country by quoting the excess of exports over imports. Lately a few of them have begun to perceive that their argument did not have the force of a demonstration. It has taken a long time to beat a little common sense into their heads, but a few of them begin to acknowledge that the position they have taken was untenable. A year ago the Chicago Record was foremost among those who thought a large excess of exports was the acme to which all nations should aspire, and the nation which had the greatest excess was the most prosperous. Now it says:

The nation that sends out of its territory more wealth than is received grows poorer, not richer. The United States cannot go on permanently importing goods valued at only \$697,148,489 an exporting to the amount of \$1,227,023,302 as was the case during the last fiscal year. Temporarily the discrepancies may be explained on the theory that Americans are paying debts abroad or that tourists are spending large sums of money, or that the balances in our favor are settled in gold. The time must come however, when imports must offset exports, if trade is to continue, for if balances were continually paid in gold we should soon have more of that metal than we would know what to do with. Then we would be anxious for wealth in other forms.

It is evident that that editor has taken a hasty glance into some standard work on political economy, but he did not read far enough to find out that gold, when used as money, is not wealth at all. One might pave the earth with gold and the people would not thereby have better shelter or more to eat or wear. Money is not wealth and when we export more than we import we are just that much poorer instead of being that much rich-

er. Of course that is one of those things that a mullah head can never find out.

APPALLING EXPENDITURES.

In counting up the income of the government for the last two years the fact is often lost sight of that a very large part of that income was paid into the treasury wholly outside of the revenue from the Dingley Bill, the war taxes and the ordinary revenues of the government. Over \$300,000,000 has come from bond issues and old debts collected during that time. The president says in his message:

The amounts paid and secured to be paid to the government on account of the Pacific Railroad subsidy claims are: Union Pacific, cash, \$58,448,223.75 Kansas Pacific, cash, 6,303,000.00 Central and Western Pacific, cash, 11,798,314.14 Notes, secured, 47,650,142.26 Kansas Pacific—bills for deficiency due United States, cash, 821,907.70

Making a total of \$124,421,607.95 The whole indebtedness was about \$130,000,000, more than half of which consisted of accrued interest, for which sum the government has realized the entire amount less about \$5,000,000 within a period of two years.

Add to that \$200,000,000 of bonds and it will be seen that notwithstanding the excessive taxation, \$324,421,607.00 have been poured into the treasury and still the treasurer of the United States reports that there is a deficiency of \$89,000,000. The deficiency has been in fact \$413,421,607.00.

This is nothing less than appalling. We would like to hear what some of the readers of the Independent think of it. One thing is certain. If expenses in the future are to be the same, taxation—heavy as it is at present—must be doubled! What have the people to say about this?

A LEARNED DISCUSSION.

Some of the learned men of Gotham have been applying the methods of the "higher critics" to the president's message and they have to their own satisfaction that it was not written by McKinley at all, but by Mark Hanna. In examining the president's former speeches and writings about which there is no question of authorship, they find that he can write fairly grammatical English, that he never placed a predicate four hundred words away from the subject, that he knows that a verb must agree in number with its nominative, that a pronoun must be somewhere in reach of its antecedent and not so used as to forever prevent a reader from finding out what its antecedent is. On the other hand they find that that is Mark Hanna's style exactly. So they came to the conclusion that Mark Hanna wrote the message.

There are other critics, however, who deny the force of this reasoning. They say that a man's style has been known to change. This change may be noticed not only in speaking, as is often the case, but also in written documents. Put a man into a new community where different forms of expression are in use from those to which he has been accustomed, and it will not be long until he will be found using them both in speech and writing. These pundits say that the long intimacy and constant association of the president with the person and overpowering will of Mark Hanna has caused him, all unconsciously, to adopt the latter's habit of disregarding all the rules of English grammar, and it does not necessarily follow that the writing of the message was done by Mark Hanna, but it may have been written by Mr. McKinley after all. The proof, they say, who having some force, is not conclusive. Moral: If you want to write passable English, associate with gentlemen, not with men covered with dollar marks.

DON'T KNOW.

The following letter has been received from D. Clem Deaver:

OMAHA, NEB., Dec. 9 1896. Editor Independent: The Independent has had considerable to say about me lately. I am not aware that I have done anything unbecoming a member of the national committee of the people's party, and if you will kindly point out where I have erred, I will, with your permission, take pleasure in presenting my opinion of your criticism of my actions. Respectfully, D. CLEM DEAVER.

So D. Clem don't know what he has done! Well, that beats us. We always had an idea that there were a few million things that D. Clem didn't know, but are somewhat surprised at this exhibition of ignorance. What did he do? Why, when he wrote that letter to the Bee, as a gentleman recently remarked, he thought he was getting into the band wagon, but after election he found that he was in a hearse instead. One of the million things that he don't know now, is how to get out of the hearse and get back into the band wagon. That's what makes him sorrowful.

Judge Kohlsaat, McKinley's pet judge, appointed without the recommendation of a single member of congress or senator, recently made a decision that will cost this state thousands of dollars. He declared that the \$2.00 extra charge made for switching cars at the Chicago stock yards was all right and that to abolish it would be taking private property for public use without compensation. So the farmers who raise cattle and hogs in this and other states west of Chicago, will have to continue paying tribute to the railroads. McKinley's pet judge has so decided. Go and whoop it up some more for the g. o. p.

MR. MCKINLEY'S MESSAGE.

The critics are everywhere poking fun at the message of the president and emperor of the Philippines. In the first place it is the most ponderous document of the kind ever transported from the White House to the Capitol. It makes a little over twenty-one columns in an ordinary newspaper. The ready print houses put it in type, but so far they have not been able to sell the whole document to a single paper. The most of the editors—even those of the gold bug variety—will only take from five to ten columns of the stuff. One of the critics goes after it in this way:

Mr. McKinley's carefully considered message, for instance, together with the usual large collection of megalogues, tautologies, split infinitives, misused auxiliaries, and other errors of number, tense and mood, offers some sentences which yield up their meaning only after careful study. It is comparatively easy to understand that when he says "the Philippines cannot be abandoned," he really means that they may not be abandoned. It is not hard to believe that the phrase "the intimate relations of all parts of the country to each other" alludes to the relations of the various sections to one another. "Intimate," may be allowed to "meet together," in view of the fact that they cannot meet asunder very well.

After that he quotes ten or twelve sentences which he says no man living can tell what they mean or give a good guess at what McKinley really intended to say. This editor took several hours and waded through the whole document. It was the worst job he has fallen onto for thirty years. He has been sick ever since and had to go and consult a doctor. Dr. Lowry said that his trouble was nervous exhaustion. There is one sentence in that message where the predicate is 487 words away from the subject. Dr. Lowry wouldn't prescribe any medicine but said if the editor did not recover, to come back in a few days. Two days after he thought he would have to report again for treatment, but observing that a copy of the message hung on a hook in front of him all the time, removed it to another place. Since that time he has rapidly improved. If anyone wants that copy of the message he can have it "free gratis, for nothing."

OUR NEW SUBJECTS.

In answer to a correspondent and for the information of other readers of the Independent, it may be said that the number of inhabitants of the Philippine islands is between 8,000,000 and 10,000,000. There has never been an accurate census taken, but that is the best judgment of those who have investigated the subject. From all that has come to light it is probable that the latter number is nearer the truth than the former. The inhabitants of Luzon, where the fighting has been done is estimated at between three and four millions. The best authorities put the inhabitants of the whole group of islands at 67 per square mile. But it must be remembered that much of the country is mountainous and some of the islands are not inhabited at all, so that the country that is occupied is much more densely inhabited than the statement would indicate. Those islands were to all appearances densely inhabited when first discovered, and the population has not diminished. There are many races and tribes, speaking many different languages and professing various religions. Some of the people are highly civilized, and in the remote districts there are savages who have never come in contact with civilization. Most of them are fierce fighters; and many thousands were never brought under Spanish rule at all. These are the people that it is proposed to hold as subjects. It will be a nasty job, no matter who commands the troops in the Philippines.

RUSHING IT THROUGH.

There was never a more despicable act of despotism perpetrated in any government than the way the gold standard bill was forced upon congress. All the long established procedure and precedents of the house were violated and the despotic mandate from Wall-street issued through the White House implicitly obeyed. All bills have heretofore been first referred to a committee, then submitted to the house with a report of the committee. This bill was perfected by a few men, kept a profound secret from all not in the ring, presented to the house without any reference to a committee and placed upon its passage in a way that no other bill has ever been handled since congress assembled for the first time. Protests had no effect. The order had been issued, every republican bent the suppliant knee like a cowering slave and obeyed.

The object of this order was to prevent discussion. The backers of this bill well know that it will not bear discussion. It changes the value of the money in which at least \$22,000,000,000 of long term debts must eventually be paid, it is perpetrating a robbery of the producers of this country of such gigantic proportions that it staggers the imagination. The well ascertained bonded debts of this country are as follows: Bonded debt of the United States, \$1,300,000,000 Bonded debt of railroads, 5,565,000,000 Mo. loan debt, secured on real estate (consists of 1890), 6,019,000,000 Bonds issued by organized industrial trusts not less than, 8,000,000,000 State, municipal and other corporate bonded debt, more than, 1,000,000,000 This bill makes all those debts payable in gold. What a future such a prospect presents to toiling humanity! It will never be endured. It is too heavy a burden for humanity to carry. It will result in repudiation, revolution or attempts at socialism.

There's Nothing More acceptable for a Christmas Gift than a good Suit of Clo' or Overcoat. Our Mail Order Man is plenty of time if you're prompt. Nebraska Clothing Co. FARNAM & 15th

WHO SHALL BE SENATOR?

In answer to this question, asked in the last issue of the Independent, letters began pouring into this office the next day after publication. The number of them was astonishing. They were nearly all for Senator Allen and they came from every part of the state and all classes of men. While they are mainly from populists, there were also many from democrats. The letters were taken up to the state house, and there we were informed that hundreds had been received there, saying that the writers had seen the question asked in the Independent and had written directly to the governor instead of sending them to the paper, the writers fearing that if sent to the Independent office they might not reach the governor on time. These were also nearly all for Allen.

If any man had any doubts about the wide circulation of the Independent and the influence it has upon the men of this state who take an active interest in government and politics, these hundreds of letters will forever disprove any such wrong impression. This paper is an independent publication and is dictated to by no man, set of men or party. That is the reason that so many men who take an active part in public affairs read it and rely upon it for news. Its opinions have weight. They always find it honest and reliable.

In the fight for senator as between the World-Herald and Auditor Cornell—Cornell is a winner. In the long run it does not pay a newspaper to abuse any man unjustly. Mr. Cornell has been an auditor far superior to any of his predecessors. He is entitled to the credit of having administered the affairs of his office honestly. Personal likes and dislikes cannot deprive him of the credit he deserves.

In the face of the thousands of letters from the people, will the poor old Journal dare to say that the appointment of Senator Allen was "dictated by a ring"? Yes, the Journal will say it because it isn't so and the Journal is a specialist at lying.

"Do unto others as you would have others do to you." Send in your back subscription together with your renewal for another year and help our Christmas to be merry.

When Senator Allen gets to Washington President McKinley will begin to realize that war is not confined to the island of Luzon.

Ag-in Nebraska has a senator that is worthy the title.

As usual Governor Poynter did the right thing.

HARDY'S COLUMN

Consistency—Civil Service—Two Wars Canals—Spanish Murder—Gold Standard—Where are We At—Strengthening Public Credit.

It is a funny law that makes it a crime to color tallow butter, but sanctions the same thing in cream butter. If color is bad in one place it is bad in another. The virtue of any law is consistency. There are two things they can't adulterate and they are eggs and potatoes.

If McKinley has a right to cut and carve the civil service rule, of course Bryan will exercise the same right in turning out McKinley men, that McKinley has in turning out Cleveland men. The quicker our office holding class is degraded to common citizenry the better. Away with life tenure of office. It is un-American.

We certainly have the advantage of England in the two wars. Not a dollar's worth of war material do we buy of them while at the same time England is buying millions of war material of the United States. These sales, with short

crops in Europe generally, creating a heavy foreign demand, together with the fact that twenty-eight millions of silver have been coined within the year, all to swell the tide of republican prosperity. That party of course should have all the credit and McKinley more than all the rest. Rigid economy among our people and good crops should have no part of the credit.

Canals or railroads which? There are places where canals are great utilities, but as a rule railroads are better. The canal around Sault St. Marie will never be abandoned. The same may be said of the Welland canal and the St. Lawrence. Aside from these there is no place on this continent where a railroad would not serve a better purpose. The Chesapeake and Ohio canal has long since been abandoned and the aqueduct over the Potomac has been utilized for a wagon bridge. The Genesee valley, Delaware and Hudson and several other canals further west have all been abandoned and railroads built on their tow paths. Notwithstanding these facts the government is now engaged in building a canal from Rock Island on the Mississippi to Hannan on the Illinois river, thence up the river to connect with the canal from Chicago, or perhaps the great harbor drainage ditch, thence into lake Michigan. The railroad companies are perfectly willing for states and governments to own and operate all the canals but there is a general fight against their owning a single mile of railroad or telegraph. The Erie canal is kept in repair by the state and free use of it is given to any person who wishes to run a boat and yet the business is falling off every year.

We have just received a paper published in Havana, the most of it printed in Spanish but one page in English. One of the items stated that 2,000 people gathered that morning at the cemetery to sadly commemorate the anniversary of the execution of eight Cuban students in 1871 by Spanish authority. The crime charged was that of writing slurs on the tombstone of a Spanish officer. The priest delivering the oration pronounced the execution murder.

The existing gold standard must be preserved by law. It will not do to let it preserve itself by supply and demand, like other commodities. The rich men are interested in gold more than in anything else and they must have the law to help them or they could not multiply their millions. The republican convention in 1896 declared for the "present gold standard," but now they want to change it so it will be more solid and enduring, they are so afraid Bryan will kick it over. They have good ground for being afraid.

President McKinley boasts of a surplus in the treasury. Why should there not be a surplus? Bonds to the amount of \$200,000,000 were sold; \$24,000,000 of silver which has been in the vaults 8 or 10 years was coined; then \$12,000,000 has been received from sale of the U. P. railroad. Then even the stamp act and other increased taxes. All these incomes go to swell the treasury, and what will be done when these resources are exhausted.

The first government bonds were issued in the sixties and read "payable, principal in lawful money, interest in coin." In 1870 the bond holders discovered the credit of the government was very weak and must be strengthened by making the bonds payable, principal and interest both, in coin. At that time we had no need of credit, for we had stopped borrowing and had commenced paying off our debts over a hundred million a year. But the bond holders must have what they wanted, so new bonds were issued payable in coin, standard weight and fineness of 1870, and the old ones gathered up and burned. The deck was now clear for another engagement. In 1873 the coinage of the silver dollar was stopped and those already coined were demonetized, at least limited as legal tender to ten dollars. The bonds were then payable in gold, for silver was outlawed for big debts. These laws increased the value of all bonds at least 50 per cent as compared with property. The most severe financial panic ever known followed. In 1875 the silver dollar was reinstated as legal tender, and its free coinage would probably have been established again but John Sherman moved a silver purchasing bill as a substitute. With the free coinage of gold, limited coinage of silver, the issuance of silver certificates and treasury notes, all legal tender, times were more and more prosperous up to 1892. About this time the endless chain was applied to the gold in the treasury and even a more severe panic followed than that of '73. The paper presented for payment was