

The Nebraska Independent

Lincoln, Nebraska

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Lincoln, Nebraska.

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COMETO LINCOLN.

The Independent extends a most hearty invitation to the members of the populist national committee to come to Lincoln and hold the meeting of the committee here. Lincoln is but ninety miles from the geographical center of the United States, that point being out near Kearney. As the national committee is composed of equal members from each state in the union, it makes this city the most convenient for them. The ninety miles from the center being in favor of the eastern states.

Here was where populism was born. It was at Omaha in this state where that second declaration of independence was issued and where the first candidate of the party for president was nominated. Here is where populism has won its greatest successes and here are the incorruptible fighters that have won those successes. Here can be seen what populism can do when it is in power.

Come to Lincoln and let us talk over matters, council together and let us gain inspiration for the great battle just ahead. It is eminently fitting that where the banner of equal rights, all and special privileges to none was first flung to the breeze, that the men who unfurled that flag should meet to plan for a continuance of the struggle to bring this nation back to the principles laid down in the Declaration of Independence.

Come to Lincoln and you shall have the warmest welcome ever given by a loving pop. The state house is in our control and every room in it shall be open and glad hands will be extended to every door to welcome you in. Come to Lincoln and you will remember, in all the years to follow, as the best occasion of your earthly career to Lincoln. Every town in this state will bid you welcome, every farmer, and there are sixty thousand of them, will run up a flag and keep it floating as long as you stay in the state.

Come to Lincoln.

A PROTEST.

One thing has come about. Editors have of late appeared in republican papers against the perpetual and universal lying practiced by republican editors generally. These writers begin to see that the matter has gone over done and that a reaction is at hand. If the practice continues the republican editorial will have no more influence than so much white paper—in fact among thinking men it hasn't much more than that now. There was one in the State Journal the other day about half a column in length in which every statement of fact was an absolute falsehood. More than that, the statements were such bald and notorious lies that they would not even fool a mullet head. Any man at all acquainted with current events would know at sight that they were lies. Here is one specimen:

"The surplus that is now in national hands is not money withheld from the holders of the country, but the excess revenues over the expected in on account of the great revival of business and wonderful prosperity of the country."

Any man in this country who knows that at all knows the excess of the United States treasury is not on account of excess of revenues, but on account of the sale of \$200,000,000 of bonds and payments by the Pacific railroads. Just previous to this this unparalleled liar had been saying that the country was so prosperous under McKinley that the treasury was paying off the bonded debt of the nation when everybody knows that the bonded debt of the nation had been increased \$200,000,000 and taxation nearly doubled. These editors who are protesting seem to fear a revolt. A revolt is coming and all their efforts will not prevent it. It is too late.

Remember that the Hon. Silas A. Helcomb was a peculiarly strong candidate. His majority was large in part at least on account of his personal popularity. The vote for regents where none of the candidates were especially well known shows more accurately the actual majority of the reform forces in this state. The average majority of the fusion candidates for regent over the republican candidates was only 6,200. Keep this in mind. Do not be over confident. Get into the fight and stay in until the last vote is counted on Nov. 8.

THE OMAHA AGREEMENT.

It will be remembered by the reader of the Independent that the populist national committee met about a year ago at Omaha to discuss party policies. The result of that conference has been called "the Omaha agreement." It was a contest between the middle of the roaders and those who believed in fusion. Milton Park was there and boasted in the presence of three reputable citizens of this state that he had brought with him on free railroad passes forty men who had voted in the committee of proxies. There was a hot time for three days. Finally, at the instigation of these roaders, and as a settlement for the time being of the questions in dispute, it was voted to ask the national committee to call the national populist convention a month before either of the other conventions. That action was taken at the request of these men and they agreed to stand by the regular organization if that was done.

Within five hours after this action was taken and the agreement solemnly entered into, these same men got together and laid the foundation for the organization of a new party, which was finally perfected by a call for a convention to be held in Cincinnati. Said convention was duly held and Baker and Donnelly were nominated as presidential candidates.

The Independent has always held that the moment that these men violated that agreement the other party was released, and that by the organization of a new party and the nomination of candidates, they had withdrawn from the populist party and should no longer be admitted to its councils.

Now these same men want to come back into the populist party and completely control the organization. There can be no just claim made that any one is either in ethics or honor bound by that "Omaha Agreement." Furthermore, every man who took part in its violation and helped to organize a new party, should be barred from participation in the councils of the populist party or attempting to act as its officials. It is on that ground that the editor of the Independent would fight this battle and fight it to a finish.

PRESIDENT KRUGER.

The world is just beginning to appreciate Kruger, but the great statesmen of Europe have long known and acknowledged his eminent abilities. Sir Charles Dilke when on one of his visits to Germany remarked to Bismark:

"Kruger is one of the extraordinary men of this century. It was very foolish when the English ministry did not allow the Queen to receive him during his visit to London. He has never forgotten this affront which certainly would not have been done in Germany." Dilke adds: "I remember the expression and emotion with which Bismark spoke about Kruger when I called him, (Bismark) the first statesman of the nineteenth century." Bismark replied: "The first statesman, no don't believe that. Cavour was much finer and much more diplomatic than I am, but there is a man who is stronger, greater and shrewder than Cavour and myself. This is President Kruger. He has no mighty army and no grand empire behind him to support him as I have. He is alone with a small people of farmer soldiers and by his genius alone he can put us all in the shadow by what he accomplishes. I met him several times and he simply astounds me."

SHEARING BANKER LAMBS.

The great financial papers of the east have been in the habit of late of using a good deal of the financial writing in the Independent without credit—in fact several articles that have been printed in this paper have been reproduced almost verbatim by the financial writers of the great dailies in New York and other cities. We make no complaint. We are glad to see them do it. The only thing is that many of them fail to see the real point and therefore draw wrong conclusions. The following is from the Chicago Record of January 8. This writer gives full credit, but draws a wrong conclusion. He says:

"With reference to the growing dependence of the west on Chicago as a money market, the following extract from a recent editorial in the Nebraska Independent (Lincoln) has especial significance, since it may fairly be assumed to voice a distinct note of public sentiment:

"Wall street is indulging in the vain hope that money will soon begin to return from the west and south and fill up the coffers of the New York banks. It is doomed to be disappointed. Western bankers had their fingers too severely burned in 1893 to forget so soon. They found that at that time their money might as well have been at the bottom of the sea. When they drew on New York the bankers there simply refused to honor these drafts. Reserves in New York banks at times of distress are no reserves at all. Until things get in a satisfactory condition western bankers will have a particle of common sense will see that their reserves are not in New York, and Wall street will look in vain for the return of money from the west and the south."

It is hardly fair to say that the article quoted was written "with reference to the growing dependency of the west on Chicago." It was intended to create a growing confidence of the bankers in these western states upon themselves, instead of putting themselves in such a condition that they must respond to every nod and wink of Wall street, the Rockefeller crowd and clearing

house ring. If their reserves are all here, they are beyond their control. They were such fools in '93 as to obey the mandates of that crowd and the consequence was that half of them went into bankruptcy along with the rest of the people of the west. The Independent hopes that they have learned something since that time.

We all know that when the Wall street crowd sent the orders to contract their loans, they had no more sense than to obey, and thereby destroyed their own business as well as that of the rest of the people. If they had under their own control their reserves at the time and had refused to obey this order of bankers who lost their all would now be in business with comfortable fortunes and the wreck and ruin that was wrought to merchant, farmer and laborer alike, would have been prevented. But these little bankers thought at that time that they knew it all and that the sun of financial knowledge rose and set in Wall street. They have found out—at least some of them have since that time—that they themselves were the innocent lambs that the Rockefeller crowd were shearing. Some of them have so advanced as to actually condescend to read the financial articles in a populist paper.

A good many bankers have written to the editor of the Independent during the last few months and some have called to see him personally. He has told them one and all that banking could not be done with ten dollars of credit to one of actual money, that there was sure disaster ahead for them, as well as for the people at large, unless they get their reserves where they could lay their hands on them when they wanted them. He has pointed out to them that under the law making certain cities reserve cities and allowing the sending of their reserves to certain banks in those cities to be loaned out, was a provision that destroyed all reserves, for at the very time they wanted them they could not get them.

The result of this is, that quite a number of the bankers of the west have come to the conclusion that Wall street will not have the chance to shear them again. The wool hasn't fully grown out on them since the last shearing. In the future they will prefer to take care of themselves and let Wall street do the same. They are just beginning to conceive that it is out of the millions that they have sent down to New York that the great fortunes have been accumulated and they themselves have been left to hold the sack. If they will all take the Independent and be guided by sound political economy, Wall street will be down on its knees to them before the next decade is past.

WHERE THE GERMANS STAND.

The Freie Presse has been taking a vote of its subscribers on the Philippine question. The result of the first week's returns are as follows:

For a colonial government, 73.
For entirely abandoning the Philippines, 539.

For concluding a peace and granting independence under an American protectorate, 1,548.

In doubt whether to abandon the islands altogether or for a protectorate and an independent government, 368.

The votes come from every state in the union except five or six, but most of them are from the middle states and Texas. More will be heard from next week.

A REFERENDUM.

Senator Marion Butler has sent out a call for a referendum vote on the following questions:

First—Shall I call a meeting of the national committee to fix time for next national convention? Answer, yes or no.
Second—If yes, what time and place do you favor for the committee meeting? Answer time and place.

Third—Or shall I take a vote of the national committee as to the time of holding the next national convention by the referendum vote? Answer yes or no.
Fourth—If you favor the referendum vote what dates do you favor for the national convention? Answer.

Fifth—Shall we not have the silver republican convention to meet at the same time and place with us? Answer yes or no.

In regard to this Senator Allen has written a letter in which he makes the following suggestions:

Washington, Jan. 7, 1900.—Senator Butler, chairman of the populist central committee, has submitted a referendum vote for the time and place of holding a meeting of the committee and of the national convention. I beg to suggest to you that you vote for the meeting of the committee at Lincoln, Neb., February 12, and for the location of the convention at Kansas City, Mo. This will accommodate the largest part of populists and will do much toward assisting to carry the southwestern and northwestern states where our vote is large.

It is to be hoped that the committee will vote for the calling of the committee at the time and place suggested by Senator Allen, and "no" to all the rest of it. Let the committee get together and talk over the whole matter, and act intelligently and for the best interest of the party. Many of these men are farmers and have not the opportunity, on account of their remote residences and distance from each other, to fully communicate with other members of the committee on the very grave situation of affairs.

To keep the Independent growing keep your subscription paid up. Examine the date on this week's issue. If in arrears please make a remittance as soon as possible.

EDUCATION MAKES POPULISTS.

You have observed the enlargement of the Independent to a seven-column page, or an increase of eight columns per week. This is a direct gain and benefit of eight columns of reading matter per week to each and every reader of the paper. Naturally it costs more money to put it out in the present form than it did when the pages were only six columns. We hope that our readers will show their appreciation of the improvement by sending in a club of subscribers, by speaking a good word for the Independent at every opportunity.

A little effort on the part of each reader in securing two or three new subscribers will enable us to make other improvements, and every reader will be benefited thereby. Will you help? There is nothing you can do that will help more toward the overthrow of imperialism and gold trusts than to increase the circulation of the Independent. It is conceded to be the leading and most progressive reform paper in the west. Invite your neighbor to subscribe. Or, if he will not subscribe perhaps you can afford to make him a present of a year's subscription. There will be much of intense interest during the coming year.

The war in the Philippines, the war in South Africa, congress in session, congressional elections, state and national conventions, full state ticket and a legislature that will elect two U. S. senators, and the presidential campaign promise to make one of the most interesting and exciting periods in the history of our nation. The reform forces cannot afford to lose this battle, and now is the time to sow the seed that will bear fruit later on. Literature and education are the weapons that have won reform victories in the past. They are the best weapons to use now, and the best force in which they are to be obtained is through the fearless and independent weekly newspaper. It is a steady educator, read by all the family in the quiet of the home circle when political prejudices are least aroused. Under such circumstances most men will read and think, and thinking men become populists. Begin by sending in your own subscription if you are not already a subscriber, in order that you may be properly fitted with armor to do your part in the battle for the restitution of the constitution and the declaration of independence, for the principles and traditions that are dear to every patriotic citizen. To fight a good fight it is necessary to have on the full armor and to keep in close touch with all that is being done. To do this you must have the Independent, the most reliable and fearless champion of the people to be found in the United States. It has been enlarged and we are giving you the best paper we can consistent with the patronage we receive. Give us better patronage and we will give you a better paper.

A blank to be used in securing new subscribers will be found inserted in this week's paper. You are invited to use it. Do not throw it away. Use it today. Take advantage of the exceedingly low rate we have offered for club of five. There are thousands of readers of this paper who can afford to take advantage of this offer, which is practically the cost of the white paper upon which it is printed, to send the Independent to five of their neighbors. Try it. You will feel better and it will do them good. We have done our part. We have met you more than half way. In clubs of five or more from now until January 1, 1901, 50 cents each. Could you expect anything more liberal than that?

PUT ON YOUR WAR PAINT.

Without any question the populist party stands today in a most perilous situation. It will do no good to try to disguise the fact. We must meet the question and meet it now. Let a look be taken over the different states. The only portion of the union in which the party—after fighting for ten years—has gained successes is in the western states. The populist vote and prestige is nearly all west of the Mississippi. But the national committee is composed of three members from each state, and Maine, with a hundred or two of votes, the personal following of one man, can come in to that committee and exert as much power as Nebraska, where the party has practical control of the whole state government. There is no use to make any remarks about the unjustness of it, that is the fact.

In Nebraska one policy has been followed and it has proven successful. In Maine another policy has been followed and the party there, although Maine was one of the original greenback states, has become practically extinct. This has not resulted in inducing the handful of men in Maine who call themselves populists, to change their policy but to more persistently follow the course that has resulted in the extinction of the organization. There is no use to argue with such men. Neither reason nor experience has any effect upon them.

Ohio is another example. If the populist party had been managed in that state along the same lines that have been followed in Nebraska there is no reason to doubt that it would today be, if not the dominating force there, at least a force that must be reckoned with. In Indiana it came very near being wrecked, but a few faithful and wise men have stood to their guns and today it is a party and must be accounted for in every election. Every where and in all states where the party has had wise leadership, a leadership that worked for relief by the formation of all forces into one, to oppose the gold standard and the domination of banks and syndicates, it has grown in power and in the number of its adherents.

Where the opposite policy has been followed, the results to the party have always, and all the time, been disaster and defeat. Now when there is a brighter prospect for the success of the populist principles than there has ever been, these men who have failed in their own states propose to take charge of the organization of the party and to conduct it along the lines that have resulted in failure. The question is: Shall we permit it to be done?

The men who have won success for the party have never been offensive to those with whom they have disagreed. They have made every effort to conciliate and defer as far as possible to the ideas of those who opposed their policies. But now a time has come when they must stand very firm or the populist party will certainly go into decadence, as it has in every state where this middle of the road element has had control.

There must be fusion of forces in the next election or there is not the slightest chance for success. No man with a sound mind can doubt it. The question

Republican treasurers, whether national, state, county or municipal have a

ashion of acting very much alike. The opposing of that check given by the City National for the purchase of the custom house building with the bank instead of in the United States treasury was embezzlement. It involves exactly the same principle that underlies the case against the Omaha bank that is now being contested in our courts in regard to that \$200,000 check that Bartley embezzled.

UNIVERSAL REPUDIATORS.

The republican party has repudiated every declaration of independence, nearly every declaration of their national platform, all of the principles advocated by Abraham Lincoln and now McKinley is repudiating himself. He is now engaged in doing the very thing that he denounced in the house of representatives. See Congressional Record, Fiftyth congress, February 29, 1898. There will be and these words:

"Nearly \$50,000,000, as I understand, of the surplus money that ought to be in the Treasury today, the Secretary having refused to pay it out to Government creditors, is now out among the banks, held by them, they giving to the government bonds as security for the deposit and they are getting it without interest."

"And I charge here today that the President of the United States and his Administration are solely responsible for whatever congested condition we have in the Treasury and whatever harm prevails about the finances of the country. Every dollar of it should have been a dollar of the Government debts if the Secretary had wisely exercised the discretion given him by law. What does a man do who has got a surplus balance in the banks and has outstanding debt-bearing interest? He calls in the evidence of those debts and pays them off with his surplus deposit. That is what a business man would have done, and that is what a business Administration would have done; and we would have had \$50,000,000 less of interest-bearing bonds in circulation today if the President had followed the way blazed for him by the Republican party."

Now he proposes to deposit in these banks without interest, not \$50,000,000, but two or three hundred million. The rank and file of the republican party may be made up largely of mullet heads, but the leaders are repudiators of contracts and every honest thing that men have advocated.

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and the only question, that can be considered by any man who wishes for success is how that fusion can best be brought about. There can be no compromise on this. Here is where there is danger. It is well known that the gold power controlled both the old parties until the Chicago convention met, and by such control, fastened upon this country by syndicates, the trusts and complete corporate domination. It is now necessary to control the populist party and prevent fusion. No effort will be neglected to do it. Honest men will be deceived. Scoundrels will be bought.

If the gold power can get control of the populist national committee—and the peculiar way in which it is constituted does not make it an impossible task—That committee will call a national convention at such time, and make such rules and regulations as will make fusion on Bryan impossible. In fact that is just what many of them declare they intend to do. If they succeed, that will be the end of the populist party.

While the Independent believes that many men thoroughly honest are unwittingly engaged in this movement, that will not in the least palliate the disaster. See what the result will be. If the middle of the roaders get control of the national committee they will expel every one who believes in fusion, they will nominate Barker and Donnelly, they will control the party name, they will have the only candidates on the Australian ballots and the rest of us will have to organize a new party or vote the straight democratic ticket without having a word to say in its councils.

Now this is the game that Mark Hanna has evolved. If it can be carried out it means the defeat of Bryan and complete control of the government by the Rockefeller syndicate. It means a great standing army to enforce its decrees. It is time that men who have made this party—not those who have always been a drag upon it—got on their war paint.

You will find the date at which your subscription expires marked on this week's issue. If you are in arrears please favor us with a remittance in order that we may make other enlargements and improvements. Do not neglect this; it is an important matter, well worth your attention.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Gold continues to be exported in large amounts. Five million dollars were shipped during the week. Since the panic about \$15,000,000 has disappeared.

In this year of unbounded McKinley prosperity there have been 9,343 failures and some of them for the largest amounts ever recorded in the United States. Dun still insists on the prosperity, but admits that an extensive revision of prices may disappoint extreme expectations. We said that six months ago, but at that time the men of the McKinley prosperity sort, called it rank copperheadism. Notwithstanding this state of affairs the trust continues to raise prices of the articles controlled by them. The price of smooth wire, barbed wire and wire nails has been advanced another twenty-five cents. No doubt that will have a tendency to add to the happiness of the mullet heads. As it is just what they voted for, now they have got it, they would be queer critters if they were not happy.

This attempt of Secretary Gage to establish an enormous bank in New York to dominate the finances of this country is no new idea with him. He has been advocating it for several years. William P. Lovett of Rochester, N. Y., writes the Chicago record that in 1895 Mr. Gage gave an informal talk to a score of university of Chicago students, all members of the political economy club, during which talk he advocated a United States bank similar to the Bank of England. He also poked fun at Andrew Jackson because of Jackson's opposition to the United States bank, and declared that the "American banking system could never attain a firm business basis till the English system, or one like it, were introduced." Mr. Gage's recent efforts have been plainly in line with his talk to the university of Chicago students. It is quite evident that Mr. Gage has not changed his ideas concerning the necessity of a United States bank. His recent denials will not be accepted by the people. He has made a record that cannot be blotted out.

The movement of Russian troops toward the Indian frontier is causing the British as much anxiety as the Boer war. It has been stated by European correspondents that the Russians have over 50,000 troops "at the gate of Herat." Twenty years ago an intimation that the Russians were sending troops or proposing to send troops in that direction would cause the greatest excitement all over England. Now the Russians have built a railroad into that country and are quietly transferring a large army to the very borders of India and the English dare not say a word. If the Boer war continues, it is not at all improbable that the Russians will capture the long sought for "outlet to the Persian Gulf," even if they do not capture something more important.

The phrases "mare clausum" and "mare

librum" have been worn out, so to speak, in diplomatic discussion and it was thought that the subject of a free sea and a closed sea, had reached a definite settlement. Now comes the British, and because they are hard pressed in a war of their own making, violate long settled international law, by claiming the right to search vessels and capture their cargoes on the high seas. It is substantially the same claim that they made that resulted in the war of 1812. They make a still more preposterous claim, to wit, that food stuffs are contraband of war, and in pursuance of this claim have captured unarmed vessels of neutral nations and confiscated their cargoes. Two German ships have been so treated and the Germans are hot about it. A cargo of flour belonging to an American citizen has also been captured. It is said "that the most friendly representation of the wrong done to this American citizen has been made to the British government by the funkier administration that is installed in the White House. Madison did not talk that way to the English when they tried that same trick in the virile days of this republic."

The bubonic plague has so extended in Honolulu that a large part of the city—the Asiatic quarter—has been burned to the ground by order of the Board of Health. The plague is one of the things that McKinley has annexed and for which every mullet head is truly thankful. It is also extending in Manila, but how far it is impossible to say on account of the censorship, which is still run on the plan that "nothing must be sent over the cable that will injure the administration."

The republican newspapers have discovered a new argument for the gold standard. They consider it a regular knock-down argument. They say that Bryan, at some holiday function down in Texas, rode an ostrich in a race against Governor Hogg. Although the whole story is a lie, the mullet head editor is firmly convinced that that settles the question of the gold standard and the control of the volume of money by the banks for all time to come. Bryan, on his return to Lincoln, said that that celebrated mountain lion hunt down in Texas was the most successful and enjoyable hunt he had ever took part in. "for," said he, "not a man was hurt, not a dog was hurt, not a horse was hurt, and the lion was put back in his cage without a scratch upon him."

The war in the Philippines goes on after the old fashion. There is cabled a report of fighting almost every day. In one fight during the week twenty of our men were killed and wounded, in another several were captured—these latter being signal corps men who were stringing wires. All of this was within twenty miles of Manila. Otis continues to assert that "the rebellion is suppressed." General Greely "got on his ear" the other day and said that if Otis could not protect the men of his corps when in sight of Manila stringing wires, that they ought to be recalled to this country.

Joe Blackburn was re-elected to the United States senate from Kentucky last Tuesday. The vote stood: Blackburn, 57, Bradley, (rep.) 52. No doubt that Bryan's aid in the last campaign was one of the large factors in thus ousting a gold bug and putting a free silver man in his place. The gubernatorial contest between Gobel and Bradley is not yet settled.

The Boer war is still all in favor of the brave Dutchmen. During the week the English have met with further losses and reverses. The British losses, according to the reports of the war department since the fighting first began, are something over 8,000. A war office compilation of casualties, issued last Monday, shows a total of 7,213—1,027 killed, 3,675 wounded and 2,511 missing! These do not include 140 who had succumbed to disease, nor the casualties at Ladysmith last Saturday.

HARDY'S COLUMN

Investigation—Bryan Unites Reformers
—It takes one With Ninety-nine—
The East End—Endless Chain—
Why not Government Make—Evidence—Not Money Enough Now—
Bad Smells—Municipal Reforms—
Capitol Removal.

Congress is about to investigate treasury Gage. It is about time that the people know of his actions. Since McKinley came in Gage has sold bonds at four per cent premium and bought them back at twelve. A nice way to help the millionaires. But oh how the republicans did howl when Cleveland handed over to the banks the surplus funds. He offered to take up bonds and pay interest up to the time they were due but the bond holders wanted a big premium on top of that. Now see what excuse Gage makes.

Bryan unites all the reform forces of the nation just as completely as Lincoln did. On the other hand McKinley unites all the robbing, thieving and corrupt elements as completely as Buchanan united the slave drivers.

We count ninety-eight, ninety-nine and one makes a hundred. One hun-