

The Nebraska Independent.

Club of Five
Subscribers from
Now Until Jan.
1st, 1901, \$2.50

More Home Print
Than Any Other
People's Party
Paper in the U.S.

VOL. XI.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, MARCH 8, 1900.

NO. 43.

A NATION OF HIRELINGS

That is what the United States is fast becoming—All Industries are passing into the control of trusts.

A few of the writers of New York are waking up at last to the fate that confronts us. It is true that they are a year or two behind the Independent, which long ago pointed out that when all the industries were in the hands of the trusts that the people of this nation would become a nation of hirelings. There will be few who will still have the initiative in enterprises, but they will be very few. The rest of the people will simply work for wages and those wages will be fixed by the arbitrary decision of men over whom they have no control. "Wage worker" will then apply to us all. That means the overthrow of our form of civilization. If the republican party remains in power and pursues its present policies, it will not be long until that model prayer of the Nazarine will no longer be addressed to the Deity, but to the trust magnate, and we will humbly bow before him and say "give us our daily bread." There will be no way to get bread except from the magnate's hand. There will be no business that a man can enter. However bright the boy may be, the only way for him to earn his daily bread will be to work for a trust and humbly receive whatever the magnate is pleased to give him.

Mr. James Creelman has an article in a late issue of the New York Journal in which he tells of their rapid increase. The Journal sent a man to New Jersey and copied the figures used from the official record of that state. But there have been many more organized in other states. The official statement from Delaware would probably add a third to the amount. Mr. Creelman says:

"There is something terrifying in the power which the trust system has suddenly developed under the protection of the McKinley-Hanna administration. It seems almost incredible, yet the official figures show that the trusts incorporated in the state of New Jersey in one year have an aggregate capital of \$2,446,500,000.

Try to grasp that with your mind. Two thousand four hundred and forty-six millions—of one cent each—made in one year. And remember that this does not take any account of incorporated companies, whose capital stock is less than \$3,000,000.

This state of New Jersey, which has in one year licensed trusts to the extent of nearly two hundred, is not the only one. It is the honor of Mr. Griggs, the attorney general of the United States. He was chosen because he was a friend and defender of the trust system.

Is it any matter for wonder that Mr. Griggs refuses to enforce the anti-trust law, which the supreme court only two years ago declared to be constitutional and necessary for the interests of the nation? Two billions and a half—in one state in one year! This is the "Robbers' Roost" denounced by Mr. Bryan.

Until the Journal sent to Trenton and had the figures copied, the state records there was no suspicion in the public mind that the trust system had grown in one place to such astounding proportions. This swift concentration of the powers of monopoly represents a strangling process that is crushing thousands of small business men and manufacturers out of trade. It is converting the American people into a nation of agents and clerks, with no hope of independence left.

Attorney General Griggs, who laughs at the anti-trust law, boasted publicly only a few days ago that his state had made it easy for trusts to exist and an audience of trust owners applauded him.

If there is a man in the United States who has any doubt that the trust system is closing all channels of opportunity to the young men of the country, I address myself to the man in Trenton. The official records of New Jersey and earnestly try to understand what they mean. There is no serious war against rich men in America. No man worth listening to objects to the trusts because the organizers of trusts are making large profits. No one proposes a war against legitimate corporations. But the law denounces monopoly in trade or industry as a crime, and that law is a mockery because the trusts have become more powerful than the government.

Today this hitherto unheard of and undreamed of commercial despotism is entrenched behind a government of its own making. Every agency of the federal administration, from the president and attorney general down to the humblest law officer, is strained to encourage and strengthen the trusts. Senator Hanna, chairman of the republican national committee, has declared again and again that "trusts should be let alone." And the emmellioned system pours money into Mr. Hanna's campaign fund to keep President McKinley and Attorney General Griggs in office.

What chance has a young man in America to become independent? What is to become of the young men? The trusts are absolutely destroying all opportunity for competition. They say to the young man of brains and ambition: "You shall not engage in business save as an employee. We can give you more than Mr. Havemeyer and Mr. Carnegie began life there were no trusts to strangle their ambitions and limit their opportunities.

Twenty years ago the field was free to all. A man who had brains, application and courage could rise in any branch of commerce or industry and become independent. That was true twenty years ago. Is it true now? The trust organizers, having had full opportunities to

compete in their own day, are now shutting the door upon all others.

What will the situation be ten years from now, or even ten years from now? Can any man who has children contemplate the future without dread? If the trusts organized in New Jersey last year have a capital of two and a half billions of dollars, what will their power be when the boy of today is a man?

The most important point to understand is that this overwhelming concentration is a new thing: that this swift, noiseless change has been made chiefly since President McKinley's election, and that it is doubling and tripling every few months. The great railroad systems are being bought up and consolidated, and an attempt is being made to make a single system from the Atlantic to the Pacific, which will destroy all hope of competition.

The anthracite coal supply of the United States is controlled arbitrarily by four railroads, dominated by four men, who in turn is dominated by one man. Thus the amount of coal and the amount to be mined each year are fixed, and the public must submit. Competition is out of the question.

The factories and large industries are being rapidly bought up or forced out of business. And as these gigantic, all corrupting systems gain in power they absolutely kill competition. No man can hope to engage in the business they control. All this is new to America. It is new to the whole world.

It is a form of tyranny more terrible than monarchy. It can crush and destroy whom it chooses. It can create factories. It can make laws and break them at will. This is new, this uncrowned, impersonal tyrant.

Look at the dread array of power which New Jersey has clothed with legal incorporation in the year 1899. It is staggering. In the entire forty-nine years preceding 1845 New Jersey incorporated 873 companies, whose capital amounted to or exceeded \$1,000,000. These were nearly all strictly legitimate business enterprises.

New Jersey those to be a robbers' roost. Men like Attorney-General Griggs applauded the changes which encouraged monopoly to make its headquarters in the state. From 1895 to the incorporation of a trust was swift, until it culminated in the extraordinary figure of last year.

Taking the corporations whose capital exceeds the three million mark, which excludes all the small enterprises of a purely local character, and the following results appear in New Jersey:

Year	No. trusts	Total Capital	Av. Capital
1888	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1889	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1890	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1891	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1892	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1893	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1894	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1895	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1896	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1897	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1898	26	\$805,000,000	\$30,961,538
1899	116	\$2,446,500,000	\$21,050,517

*For 1898 and 1899 only companies having an excess of \$3,000,000 of capital have been counted. Had the \$1,000,000 concerns been included the increase would have been at least three times greater.

Thus far in 1900 but seven companies of particular note have been formed—that is, companies with \$3,000,000 or more of capital, the aggregate of whose capitalization is \$79,000,000, and the average \$11,285,714.

It will be seen by the figures which I give here that since the beginning of 1898, a little more than two years ago, the trusts incorporated in New Jersey alone have an aggregate capital of \$3,131,000,000. Think of it! More than three billions in a little more than two years!

Can a remedy be applied until the Government is in the hands of men who really want to make a remedy effective?

After this there follows a list of every trust formed in 1898, 1899 and 1900, the name of their organization and amount of capital. The list would fill more than a column of this paper. All these have grown up under the administration of President McKinley aided by his attorney general who is trust defender from that robber's roost, the state of New Jersey. Mr. Creelman recapitulates the trusts for the last three years as follows:

Year	No. trusts	Capital
1898	26	\$805,000,000
1899	26	\$805,000,000
1900	7	79,000,000

Total trust period to date \$3,131,000,000

The British government has increased the income tax to a shilling on the pound. McKinley is so very fond of imitating the British government, suppose he sends a message to congress recommending that this government follow the British example. But he won't. He only believes in copying the evils of monarchy—standing armies, great navies and things of that sort.

That Secret Alliance
"Last December the (British) government made vigorous overtures to two great powers—Germany and the United States—for an alliance."—Lord Roseberry, Feb. 15, 1900.

"The union—the alliance, if you please—between these two great nations (American and British) is indeed a guarantee of the peace of the world."—Joseph Chamberlain, Nov. 30, 1899.

"When I accepted my post as consul (at Pretoria) I knew nothing of the secret alliance between America and Great Britain."—Charles E. Macrum, Feb. 14, 1900.

"He (Mr. Macrum) is talking through his hat."—Senator Platt of Connecticut (champion of administration), Feb. 15, 1900.

Another Injunction
Members of the state board of transportation say that the action of Judge Munger of the federal court in issuing an order restraining the board from reducing the existing freight rates on live stock practically renders them powerless to proceed to fix or regulate rates. Secretary of State Porter announced that he had long expected the railroads to apply to the federal courts for an injunction and that he was not surprised that such an order had been issued.

THE PUERTO RICO OUTRAGE

The McKinley Congress Overrides the Constitution and Taxes Puerto Rico Without Representation.

The house passed the bill putting a tariff on the goods shipped from Puerto Rico into this country, and from this country into that island. This is exactly what the British parliament did when this country revolted and said no taxation without representation. The very legislation that Washington fought against, and to prevent the execution of which our revolutionary sires shed their blood on a hundred battle fields, has been re-enacted by a republican house.

And these men call themselves followers of Washington and Lincoln! The New York Journal comments upon the matter as follows:

Representative Grosvenor of Ohio, the chief spokesman of the new republican imperialism, has framed the platform on which William McKinley must stand, unless he can reassert the leadership to which the majority of the republicans in congress are depriving him. In his speech on the Puerto Rico tariff bill on Thursday Mr. Grosvenor said:

"But we have got the Philippines on our hands, and I will tell you what we shall tell the people of this country, my friends, if you will listen to me now. We say we have acquired title to the Philippines and Puerto Rico. We did not go after them, but they came to us and we could not help ourselves.

"A gentleman went out into the Orient with a little more power than he had authority, and the first thing he knew he had captured the Lord only knows how many islands out there—we have not yet found out ourselves. But he took them and we are there, and our flag is there, and we were aided in getting a perfect title to them by the democratic senators in congress without any protest from anybody. We have got them, and the duty is upon us, and we are going to take care of them. We are going to make all the money out of the transaction which the Oriental countries, and we are going to enshrine the declaration of independence upon the statute books of the Philippines just as soon as we think the time has come to do it, and we are not going to do it one minute before. If all the democrats on God's earth go howling that we have got to do it now." (Applause and laughter on the republican side.)

There it is. There is the inspiring vision for which the republican party, as represented by Mr. Grosvenor, is bent upon to exchange its old ideals of freedom, justice and magnanimity. We have Puerto Rico and the Philippines on our hands and "we are going to make all the money out of the transaction we are going to enshrine the declaration of independence upon the statute books just as soon as we think the time has come to do it, and "we are not going to do it one minute before."

And another republican speaker, Mr. Moody of Massachusetts, put the finishing touch to the platform by declaring that the majority of the republican leaders of all the states had had the spirit of the constitution rather than its letter, and deriding those who are guided only by a "paper constitution."

When such issues are raised there is no need to ask where the democratic party stands. The democracy has always been the party of the constitution and the declaration of independence. It abhors the idea of holding subject peoples to "make money out of the transaction." It has been the great expansion party of our history, but under its guidance our expansion has carried American justice, liberty and prosperity along with our flag.

When the democratic party carried our frontiers from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains and then to the Pacific it sent no Roman proconsuls to grind down the people of the provinces for the profit of men of influence at home. It was the American republic that expanded, not an American empire.

When we went, less than two years ago, to "liberate" the people of Puerto Rico, they were a part of a nation—a backward nation, perhaps, but still a nation with a history, a political life and a place in the world of its own. If Spain overtook Puerto Rico, we were to help to govern Spain. Her people elected twelve representatives and four senators to the Spanish cortex. These members were not mere delegates without power, like those we allow to speak for Arizona and New Mexico—they were a part of legislative bodies that have been had government in full standing. Their votes counted for just as much as those of the senators and representatives from Madrid.

Puerto Rico also had an insular legislature of her own, elected by her own people. There were duties of ten per cent on trade between Puerto Rico and Spain, and these were to have been abolished over a year ago.

Now we have liberated the Puerto Ricans by converting them from citizens of a monarchy into subjects of a republic. The republican party has deprived them of all the rights of the American people under Spain. It will not even allow them to have a delegate in one house of congress without a vote, to explain what they would like to have, although the past week's debate has shown that the presence of such a delegate, possessing the same knowledge and the same understanding, is as necessary to congress as to the Puerto Ricans.

Having thus deprived them of all voice in their own government, we next proceed to tax the Puerto Ricans without their consent. We say that their surviving people shall pay \$400,000 a year in duties on the rice that is their principal article of food. Last year we got up subscriptions to feed the victims of the hurricane; now we are commanding these same victims to give up more in taxes than they received.

When the republican party began its expansion journey it did not know the route along which its leaders were going to take it. In the campaign of 1898 the

republicans of Iowa said in their platform:

"It is due to the cause of humanity and civilization, for which the war with Spain was fought, that no people who have in consequence been freed from oppression shall, with the consent or through the influence of the United States, be returned to such oppression or permitted to lapse into barbarism."

Nothing there about making all the money we can out of the transaction. Nothing there about the Puerto Ricans having no rights we are bound to respect.

The republicans of Massachusetts shared the sentiments of those of Iowa. They said:

"The war with Spain, undertaken by the United States from the highest motives, has been justified in the intelligence and compassion of mankind. Our brilliant victories have brought us solemn obligations and grave responsibilities, for we cannot, in the interests of honor, humanity or civilization, return to Spain the peoples whom we have freed from her tyranny."

Freed from her tyranny by depriving them of such political rights as she allowed them, and delivering them bound and gagged to the tax gatherer?

The republicans of Michigan expressed the opinion that Providence had "made this nation the instrument for the uplifting of an oppressed people"—at 15 per cent Disley rates?

The republicans of Minnesota declared that the war with Spain had been prosecuted "in the interest of humanity and for no selfish ends whatever."

The republicans of New York announced that "wherever our flag has gone, there the liberty, the humanity and the civilization which that flag embodies and represents must remain and abide forever."

Fine words, are they not? President McKinley evidently believed in them two months ago, when he said in his message:

"Our plain duty is to abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Puerto Rico, and give her products free access to our markets."

Secretary Root believed in them when he asserted that "the highest considerations of justice and good faith" required us to grant free trade to Puerto Rico. Governor General Davis believed them when he said that "the interests of the American people and the mainland of the United States."

But now the majority of the republicans in congress have thrown all sentiment overboard. They have no more use for "benevolent assimilation"—they are lined up for practical imperialism. They see visions of fat proconsuls and American Mr. Grosvenor would make a noble Varres. Mr. Moody ought to do well in the part of Crassus.

If they have their way, the issue for the democrats is made. There will be no more dissensions in the democratic camp over details. The issue will involve the great leaders of American opinion handed down to us by our fathers. It will involve our own liberties and the honor of our national name.

An expanding republic or a piratical empire? That is the question the republican party is preparing to submit to the people. The democracy is ready for it.

State Warrants and Silver
Under free coinage of silver and gold at the present ratio, the price of an ounce of silver could not fall below \$1.29. It might go above that figure, in which event little or no silver would be presented at the mints for coinage—as was the case prior to 1873.

A good illustration of this fact is shown by the price of state general fund warrants. As long as the state stands by the great leaders of American opinion as an investment for the permanent educational funds, just so long they will never go below par. But they may go to a premium if outside competition is keen enough.

Dr'FRANCE.
"Private Smith at the Philippines," is a hand book of anti-imperialist argument which will be read and prized by people who care to keep posted. It is written in the colloquial style and simply very fairly epitomizes studies and discussions alleged to have been had among some soldiers returning from the Philippines. The imperialist debater, Capt. Bevis, is the target for Private Smith and his friends. Private Smith adopts a style which reminds one of "Coin" Harvey. The book is especially valuable for its wide range of quotations from the great leaders of American thought and action for the past century, and will be a good one for the ordinary political speaker to carry in his grip next summer and fall.

A paragraph which appeared in several papers last week contained this ludicrous statement: "Governor Poynter's administration has become world-wide." Administration means "government of public affairs"; and it can hardly be possible that the writer of that paragraph meant us to believe that Governor Poynter is governing public affairs over the wide world. The fame of Governor Poynter's government of public affairs in Nebraska has, indeed, become world-wide; but carelessly written statements like the one referred to, being ludicrous in the extreme, can in no manner aid the people of Nebraska in recognizing the sterling worth of Governor Poynter.

Adjutant General P. M. Barry will start for Washington, D. C., today, where he goes to settle the accounts between the State of Nebraska and the National government in connection with the muster of the Nebraska National Guard with the national service.

A TRUE REFORMER

Bryan Stands Up Before the Multi-Millionaires and Tells Them the Truth to Their Faces.

No true reformer since the world began has ever flinched when brought face to face with the oppressors. Luther stood up before all the monarchs and all the powers of Europe and said: "God helping me I cannot do otherwise." The reformer of Gallies told the great and powerful to their faces that they were hypocrites and whited sepulchers. Cromwell told the sycophants that formed the British parliament that they were a factious crew and the enemies of all good government.

Mr. Bryan was in Tampa, Florida, the other day, and it was thought to abash him by bringing him before a host of trust magnates and multi-millionaires who make that place their winter resort. He stood up and talked to them in the same way, or if there was any difference, in somewhat stronger language than he is accustomed to use when addressing a crowd of farmers in the sand hills of Nebraska.

He introduced his address by a reference to the "usual habits of the winter resorts," and said that he wished to give offense to no one, always feeling more at home when addressing the general public than when talking to any particular class. He spoke of the Commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Steal," and remarked that under the administration of trusts and monopolies the Commandment had been paraphrased to "Thou Shalt Not Steal in a Small Way."

He charged the supreme court of the United States with the responsibility for the phrase, "larceny by law," he knew that he was addressing the class of people who did not appreciate the force of the phrase. Still, he could not refrain from saying that, among the guests of winter resorts, the idea was uppermost that the common people were more dependent upon the rich class than vice versa.

He argued fervently for the recognition of the common people. "I have never been taught that there are two heavens," he said, "and I cannot persuade myself to believe that when the last roll is called these guests of the Tampa Bay will answer a different roll from the thousands who labor and toil."

Mr. Bryan was candid in attacking that class of wealthy men who rob millions from the poor and seek to repay them by occasional gifts to education and charity. He closed with a hope that all the wealthy classes of the United States, including those representatives of it who were before him, would arrive at the proper conception of the humanity of man to man.

Considering the audience to whom it was addressed, Mr. Bryan's speech caused something of a sensation.

That crowd of plutocrats who are accustomed to have every word approached them, cringe and bow and fall upon them, met a MAN at last, and we want a MAN in the White House once more. What a glorious day that will be if it ever comes!

TO THE BEWILDERED
Populism is a Defender of the Constitution and Rights of Man—it Marches on to Victory.

Probably the question has arisen in the minds of many members of the populist party; how far have we advanced toward the enactment into law of the principles of the party since our organization?

Roughly speaking, we might say that the purpose of the constitution of the United States was to embody into a compact form of words a standard for the nation to live up to and that standing was the welfare and interest of the many or of all as against those of the few. Strange to say, the tendency of all the laws enacted since the constitution was adopted, seem to have been made in the interests of the money and for the securing of privileges for certain classes as against the masses. The laws relating to property and money have encouraged the concentration of enormous amounts of wealth in the hands of a few individuals, in amount such as never has been known in the history of mankind. The laws relating to daily living can be traced to the few against the many.

We do not say that Mr. Carnegie is a worse man than all others because he has accumulated many millions. He is only the example of one man who has taken advantage of the laws as they exist and who has probably helped to make more laws to preserve the existing condition of things by the use of money which he has accumulated. This condition of things throws an enormous power into the hands of a few individuals. A nation can no longer call itself free and independent when all the levers of machinery of daily living can be manipulated by a few individuals for their own interest as against the interest of the many.

We saw the tendency of social conditions and organized what we called the people's party in order to arrest this tendency and to adopt a new policy of government which should better enforce the spirit of the constitution.

The innate sense and feeling of the people against the existing condition was made stronger and clearer by the public agitation carried on by the populist party and manifested itself four years before the date of the Omaha convention by six million votes for the man who had been chosen to represent the interest of the many against the few.

It is again four years since that vote and the question has arisen: "Are we nearer the reformation than when the populist party was organized?" The populist party has many mem-

bers of many kinds and to a noisy few among them the question would mean:

"Am I any nearer getting an office or getting something out of the organization? If we can keep ourselves to ourselves and help no one, nor allow any one to help us to attain our object, we are more likely to get what places and glory there is to be got out of the organization for ourselves."

But to the great mass of the party the question means: "Our principles are everything. To maintain the constitution is everything. No matter what becomes of us, we will accept any help and give any help to others to bring about the realization of our hopes and enact and enforce the spirit of the constitution."

At bottom this is a struggle to death for the maintenance of our constitution, for which in the past men have fought and died, we are willing to give up all for that. We hope we know that we are stronger and nearer our goal than we were four years ago when we gave our six million votes.

BRIGHT EYES.

TEXAS POPULISTS.

They Make a Statement to The Members of The Party Concerning the Meeting of the Populist National Committee.

In consequence of certain signed publications emanating from this city during and since the meeting of the people's party national committee, the Texas delegation makes the following statement:

When the national committee was called to order by Chairman Butler he stated that he and the secretary, as was their duty, had prepared a preliminary list of members and their proxies, but as some had died and several contests have been filed from different states he deemed it his duty to appoint a committee of three on credentials and contests to assist in revising the list and passing on said contests; that the national committee could legally transact no business until after this list had been prepared and adopted; that after the secretary had read the preliminary list the committee would stand adjourned until 3 p. m., and the secretary and this contest committee would go immediately to the rooms of the department of insurance in the capitol building, where the committee meetings were being held, and that those who had proxies met and directed, sent for many of the bolters, and after hearing all the evidence perfected the roll by recommending the seating of every member elected at St. Louis in 1896, or who had since been elected by a regular state convention, except those who participated in the Cincinnati convention of 1898, which nominated Barker for president and Donnelly for vice president, and those who are now on the national committee of that party or openly supported that ticket. Among those seated were Jo. A. Parker, who appeared before the contest committee and stated emphatically that he had bolted the Cincinnati convention and was not supporting its nominees; D. Clem Deaver and all the others whose credentials were regular. Parker, Deaver and others who had been seated afterwards met the regular committee, participated in its deliberations for a time and then deliberately bolted again.

The present roll of the members of the national committee, as reported and adopted, includes representation from every state and territory in the union and the District of Columbia, and the attendance was the largest that has assembled at any meeting of the committee since 1896. This session of the committee was characterized by the utmost harmony and brotherly feeling throughout. Every agreement made at Omaha in 1898 was adhered to strictly.

Then the date of holding the national nominating convention was left entirely to the Texas delegation who selected May 9, 1900. The committee, selected Sioux Falls, S. D., as the place for holding the convention, and the basis of representation adopted at Omaha in 1898 was adopted without debate and will be adhered to. So far as we are advised on one member of the national committee participated in this bolt.

The preconceived plan for a bolt and the attempted disruption of our party inaugurated at Omaha, June 18, 1898, and which our state convention of that year repudiated by acclamation, has culminated here in the bolt of the same element before our national committee was organized or its policy declared.

We believe it our duty to lay these facts before the populists of Texas and the nation and urge them to remain steadfast to the regular organization, which is using every effort to maintain all our principles as the results of this meeting clearly demonstrate.

HARRY TRACY,
S. C. GRANBERGER,
O. F. DOMBLAZER,
J. H. BRADLEY,
J. H. DAVIS.

Club of five subscribers from now until January 1, 1901, for \$2.50. Everybody rustle.

LEARN TO TALK ENGLISH

A Publisher Makes a Protest Against an Education that Neglects the Teaching of English.

One by one the great editors, the publishers and educators come trailing along in the rear of the Independent, some of them four and five years behind and some of them only a few months, but all of them far in the rear. For four or five years this paper has been insisting that pupils in the public schools and colleges should be taught English. Years are spent in teaching Latin, Greek, German, French, Sanskrit and every other language and dialect and the native tongue is neglected. It is very seldom that an article comes into an editorial room that does not require very numerous alterations and corrections, even from the professional classes. These "educated" classes, while they may know where to put capital letters and how to spell, scarcely ever know how to construct a sentence so that the idea they want to express is clear cut and easily understood. They nearly always put the important word in the wrong part of the sentence. That makes the idea obscure and dim. Some sentences have to be read over three or four times before what the writer "is driving at" can be found.

The graduates of our common schools seem to never have been taught anything about capitalization, punctuation, paragraphing and more than half of them do not know how to spell. They know all about algebra, geometry, trigonometry and a hundred other things that will never be of the slightest use to them, but they know very little about the language they try to speak. That defect in their education makes them the prey of every sharper who may attack them. They are unable to detect a sophism, they know nothing about logic except as they have been forced to apply it in the study of mathematics, and they seem never to have any idea of applying it to anything else. They can't reason at all. If they could we would not have so many mule heads in Nebraska. We would not have men going around talking about having high prices and dear money both at the same time, or shouting at the top of their voices: "The foreigner pays the tax."

Walter H. Page, a member of the publishing firm of Doubleday, Page & Co. of New York, who has served as editor of the Atlantic Monthly, addressed visiting superintendents at Central Music hall, Chicago, last week on "The Right Use of Speech in a Democracy." Members of the board of education occupied boxes, and 1,000 Chicago school teachers, present by special invitation, filled the first gallery. Mr. Page said: "There is too little strong writing on subjects that affect us most. Matters of political, scientific, historical and sociological interest are so poorly presented that few people care to go through the literature issued upon them. I have served as editor of the Atlantic Monthly, and I think I know what I am talking about when I say there has not been a magazine published in ten years in which the subjects have been properly presented. When the people ask the magazine editor why he doesn't give them a better magazine I think the editor's specific answer should be: 'The people who don't write better.'"

"Instruction in modern universities is not calculated to produce formative, creative work. It is entirely too analytical. Every youth should be thought to make something in words as he is taught to make things with his hands in the manual training departments of schools. There should be post graduate schools in which the best novelists, the best essayists, the best political writers, the best historians, etc., should be employed as instructors.

"To the people who say that the power of oratory or impressive speech is gone, I would point out the effectiveness of the speech delivered in your city by William J. Bryan at the democratic convention a few years ago. Before that excited mass of flabby indecision there arose a man who by the mere force of speech carried the day for himself and his opinions. Consider Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty.' The style of that book made it read by thousands of people who had avoided other literature on the same subject. We too often toil to dig up truth and then bury it in dull writing."

The Independent congratulates Mr. Walter Page upon having seen the truth at last. Although he is four or five years behind the Independent and most of the old pop farmers of this state, he is to be commended. If a few more literary gentlemen who live in the provincial part of the United States bordering on the Atlantic ocean, will wake up they may be able to write something that will be of benefit to humanity before they die. None of them have for the last ten years.

When D. Clem Deaver was steward at the institute for the deaf and Tessie Deaver drew pay as matron, and the whole family lived at the institute free and had free food, Clem looked upon fusion as a divine institution. But a different now. As a prominent populist of Omaha said the other day: "I believe in harmony and fusion; Deaver believes in hell and confusion." However, at fifty per week, cash on the spot every Saturday night, it is much better to be the editor of a mid-road pop paper than to be steward at a state institution, even with board and rent free, and wife on the pay roll to boot.