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The flag is the symbol of the constitution.

"Trade follows the flag, but the constitution does not."—Wm. McKinley.

Every delegate should be present at the state convention on the 19th. Railroad rates, one fare.

The flag and the constitution go together and any man who says that they don't is a villainous traitor.

If you need sample copies for use in getting up a club write for them. We will send them by return mail.

"Republicans in rebellion." Yes, just like they rebelled against the gold standard. Every last one of them voted for it.

We've let those chaps run things long enough. The men who made the party are going to have something to say this time.

It is said that Standard Oil Johnny, Nebraska's distinguished senator, will not attend the republican state convention this year.

The gold barons are having a high old time these days and they are feeling so good that they have stopped shouting about the silver barons.

God save William the Wobbler, President of the United States and Emperor of Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Philippines! More titles will be added next year.

Keep it in mind that this convention is going to be controlled and managed by the gentlemen from the farms, the work shops and business offices. The office holder "will not be in it," so to speak.

The most persistent office seeker that Nebraska ever produced is a chap down in Omaha by the name of Clem Deaver. He has been a perennial candidate. At last he got an office and then got kicked out. That made him awful mad.

A new fusion paper appeared among our exchanges last week entitled the Pawnee Chief. Its motto is: "Equal and exact justice to all—special privileges to none." The Independent welcomes it on the firing line.

A writer in one of the bolting papers says, "we will make no more mistakes about leaders." Probably the writer is right. By the time those chaps get through with the leadership of Clem Deaver, they will have no need of any more.

Hereafter every applicant for an appointment under the populist party should be asked if he intends just as soon as he is put out of office to join the assistant republicans. Clem Deaver's course should cause the enactment of a new rule.

Macrum says that he did not know that there was a secret alliance between this country and England. He is excusable for he was away off in the heart of Africa and the British censor confiscated his private mail. He was not long in this country before he found it out.

The express companies are behind that loud bill with their big lobby and stacks of money. They calculate that if sample copies of newspapers and certain periodicals are excluded from the mails, their business will be largely increased.

Write a letter to your congressman right away.

The Omaha Bee gave the assistant republicans a grand send off by printing the pictures of Clem Deaver, Joe Parker, R. H. Wheeler, J. B. Osborn, C. C. Clemens, Calamity Weller and Bill Deck, and labeled them: "Populist national committee at Lincoln." Of course Rosewater loves the populist party and wants to give it a boost.

In 1896 the republicans solemnly declared that we could not have a financial system without the consent of England, and now they say we cannot build a canal across the isthmus unless Johnny Bull will let us. After all that, they deny that the United States is a province of Great Britain. If we can't do anything without the consent of England, what are we doing now?

A HARD FIGHT AHEAD.

If any pop is so enthusiastic as to believe that this election is going to be a walk away, he had better reconsider the matter at once. The republicans have a man to manage their campaign who is equal to Edmisten as an organizer and besides that, has command of unlimited supplies of money of his own and a right to draw on Mark Hanna at sight at any time for whatever he thinks he can use. D. E. Thompson is already at work night and day. He has a map of every senatorial and representative district lying before him on which is recorded the vote for every member of the last legislature. Word comes from everywhere that his men are active in very many of the counties scattered over the state already. Mr. Hanna has his men at work also. Several of them have been reported at populist headquarters. There can no longer be any doubt that since the Omaha election there has been a tie up between Thompson and Rosewater, and if the republicans carry the next legislature the two senators from Nebraska will be Rosewater and Thompson.

Another thing must be taken into consideration. We must carry the state ticket by at least 10,000 majority to be sure of the legislature on account of the unfair apportionment of the state. Enormous majorities in the western counties count for nothing in a fight for the legislature. Most of the members come from the eastern part of the state and a majority of one in three or four of these eastern counties may elect a dozen republican members, yes, even more than that. The Independent advises that the state committee get to work immediately. We have no men in our party outside of the committee to take hold of the work as the republicans have in Thompson and Rosewater.

One of the most important things to do is to put populist papers in the hands of every doubtful voter, and for that matter, as far as possible in the hands of all voters. This policy in the past has proved the most successful of any thing ever tried, as the county committees of several counties will testify that have spent a good share of their campaign funds in putting the Independent in the homes of those who did not take it. In some counties the result has been really astonishing. Anyhow, there is a fight before us such as we have never had before and some sort of plan of campaign should be evolved and put in force immediately.

THE CONVENTION.

The coming state convention should be a free expression of the membership of the populist party and not of that portion of it which holds the offices. It is the membership that makes the office holding possible. It is the thousands of unselfish workers scattered all over the state—men who never held office and never expect to hold office that makes any reform possible. When these men come to a state convention they should take matters into their own hands, elect the officers of the convention, appoint its committees and make its platform. The office holders are the servants of these men, and upon their work the convention will pass judgment. What decency is there in appointing a lot of office holders upon the committee upon resolutions and have them bring in for adoption a platform commending their own work. The workers in the populist party want none of that, and if the men who have been writing letters to this editor have the courage of their convictions there will be none of it in our conventions this year.

The convention should give office holders a full opportunity to express their opinions, in fact, in many cases should seek their advice and counsel, but they should keep in the back ground. If they have not the good judgment to do so themselves and of their own motion, then they should be made to do it. Of course the office holder is just as honest, just as much, and in fact, more interested in the success of the party than the ordinary farmer, but he is apt to be over zealous and injure the cause instead of assisting it. He should know enough to keep in the back ground at conventions, and if he does not he should be informed that it will be to his interest to do so.

The party was formed and grew to success without the aid or consent of any office holder, and these very estimable gentlemen should be reminded of that fact once in a while and if they do not heed the advice they should be made to heed it.

TIN HORN EDITORS

The Schuyler Quill gives some very good advice to a few carping fusion editors in this state which the Independent hopes that they will read, ponder over and then follow. The Quill calls them "tin horn editors," we suppose because they are always making a discordant noise with their horns, to the annoyance of everybody and the edification of none. It is this everlasting, never ending carping at the men whom we have elected to office to which the Quill objects. It says: "You cannot meet a partisan republican who trusts implicitly in the republican press of the state who does not hold in contempt the word 'reform' as applied to our fusion officials. And he will startle you with a list of the crimes which he thinks the fusion officers, from Holcomb down, have been guilty of having committed. Now, is it the duty of the fusion press to summarily convict these officers of these crimes whether

testimony of party-blind antagonists who think no good thing is found outside of the republican party? The Quill thinks not."

The thing that most disgusts this writer is that if a populist editor endeavors to defend one of the men whom we have elected, from the libelous charges of the republican press, two or three of these "tin horn editors" are sure to jump on him in their next issue and declare that he belongs to "the state house ring," or he is engaged in "putting up a job," or something of that kind.

The officers that we have elected and sent to the state house to administer the government of this state have given us the best government this state has ever had in every way, and these "tin horn" editors will say so themselves when cornered. Yet week after week they take up every republican slander that the Hannaites can invent and roll it under their tongues as if it were the sweetest morsel they ever tasted. All of which makes us very tired indeed.

SOMETHING TO LEARN

The Washington correspondents whose papers are opposed to imperialism have a few things to learn and the sooner they learn them the better. One of them is that statements like these made on the floor of the House by Grosvenor to the effect that we are going to make all we can out of the Philippines and Porto Rico and are not going to apply the doctrines of the declaration of independence and the constitution until we see fit, should not be quoted and commented upon until they appear in the Record. This writer learned that years ago. He got caught the same way that five or six shorthand men were ensnared last week. They all had the words of Grosvenor exactly the same, but they never appeared in the Record.

That reminds us of a thing that happened in the senate one day in 1894. A distinguished senator all of a sudden walked onto the floor and going up to the reporters table, he leaned forward with both hands upon it and said: "Mr. President, I am going to make a speech and I want these reporters to take it down and I want it printed in the Record. This Congressional Record is getting to be a regular humbug. A whole lot that is said on this floor is never printed at all. Now I am going to make a speech and I want these reporters to take it down and print it just as I say it. I am tired of this sort of humbug."

About that time another senator walked up to the protesting speaker, whispered something in his ear and they then left the chamber arm in arm and neither of them appeared until the next day. It is needless to say that that speech, notwithstanding the protestations of the distinguished senator, never appeared in the Record. From all of which it will appear that certain Washington correspondents have still something to learn.

BETTER WAKE UP.

The editors of weekly newspapers in this country better wake up or the first thing they know they will find their occupation gone.

A bill relating to second-class mail matter, known as H. R. 6071, has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Loud. The provisions of this bill are most sweeping in character, and calculated to seriously cripple the circulation and growth of nearly all newspapers and periodicals. It prohibits the mailing of sample copies at the pound rate, thus depriving all publications of one of the most valuable means not only of extending their circulations, but of securing new subscribers to take the places of those who die or drop out for various causes, and will therefore cause the general depletion of newspaper circulation by subscription. It defines subscribers as those "who voluntarily order and pay, or agree to pay, for the same," under which definition a person whose subscription has lapsed and has not been renewed is not a subscriber, and copies of a periodical sent to other than advance-paying subscribers could be excluded. This is a direct blow at the local country newspaper.

There is no good and sufficient reason why this bill should become a law, because the annual postal deficit has been steadily decreasing in recent years and will soon be entirely obliterated under the present statute. The newspapers of this country can kill this bill, as they have killed similar measures in former sessions of Congress, if they will wake up and go at it immediately, but if they do not begin to rustle in short order, the bill will be enacted. Then the printing of newspapers will go into the hands of a great trust with abundance of capital and the small concerns that enable thousands of men to make a living, will go to counting ties as their predecessors have in numberless other callings.

While editors of all shades of opinion are interested, reform editors have not only their living, but their principles at stake. Let this bill become a law and there will be no hope for the common people except in a revolution.

A Mark Hanna assistant, published at Kokomo, Indiana, says in speaking of the national committee: "The fusionists laid a plan to slip quietly into the hall from the back way and organize the committee secretly." Now that is good. There is no back way to the representative hall where the committee met, it being in the east wing and second story

IMPERIAL SALARIES

The bill that passed the house for the government of Porto Rico contains a list of officers and salaries that would swamp any little patch of ground the size of that island anywhere on earth. It seems that if we are to have empire, we must have imperial salaries also. No government on earth ever provided for worse oppression than is provided for in this bill. It would make any honest American who does not believe in grinding down the poor for the benefit of an imperial office holding class, blush to the color of his hair to look at it.

The following is the latter part of section 34 of that bill: The annual salaries of the officials appointed by the president, and so to be paid, shall be as follows: The governor \$8,000; in addition there to he shall be entitled to the occupancy of the buildings heretofore used by the chief executive of Porto Rico, with the furniture and effects therein, free of rental.

- The secretary \$4,000. The attorney-general \$4,000. The treasurer, \$5,000. The auditor, \$4,000. The commissioner of the interior, \$4,000. The commissioner of education, \$3,000. The chief justice of the supreme court, \$5,000. The associate justices of the supreme court (four each), \$4,500. The marshal of the supreme court, \$3,000. The United States district judge, \$5,000. The United States district attorney, \$4,000. The United States district marshal, \$3,500.

Add that up and then blush for the disgrace that this imperial republican congress has brought upon this nation. That is worse oppression than Spain ever inflicted upon those poor, down-trodden people. They cannot help themselves. They cannot fight this great nation. Their only hope is that the God of hosts will hear their prayers.

There should be a great big sign painted and put over the platform of the auditorium with these letters painted on it: "No office holders need apply." And the old farmers who come as delegates should see to it that if they did, that they got the "marble heart," "cold shoulder," or were handed out on the toe of some plowman's boot.

When the republicans determined to establish the gold standard, they announced their intention by declaring for bimetalism. When they resolved to carry out a policy of criminal aggression they said that forcible annexation would be a crime. When they decided to flood the country with bank money, they made a canvass for gold as the only money.

There is a wondrous change in the attitude of the British government toward the Irish in the last few weeks. A few years ago an Irishman was arrested if found wearing a bit of green ribbon. Now the Queen orders the Irish soldiers to wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's day. There is fear of an Irish uprising. The British government never does a just deed except from fear or the hope of gain.

The splendid management that Ben Weber has given to the Industrial School at Geneva has put Fillmore county in the fusion column, and a good majority for the entire state and national ticket may be expected from that county. Mr. Weber's management has been a model. It is an illustration of what may be expected from a man who was a reformer more than a score of years before there was an office in sight.

The decoy ducks that the republicans have floated in the very muddy pools of assistant republicanism in this state have never been much of a success at decoying. They have never been of the right color to deceive the eye of the old farmer populists. They tried Vandervoort, Bill Deck, Stebbins and as a last resort they have set out Clem Deaver. But he is worse off color than any of the others and will be a total failure.

A friend writing to the editor of the Independent from Ohio says that there will be four or five reform parties in the field next fall in that state, all of them with platforms essentially the same and all voting under different names for different candidates. He wants to know how any reform can ever be effected in that way "when plutocracy stands as a solid cohort, all voting one ticket." There is but one answer to such a question. It will never come.

If the Boers should triumph in their present struggle it would mean the formation of a "United States of South Africa." Stranger things have happened than their final triumph would be. There is something strangely alike in the spirit behind Ethan Allen's "Surrender in the name of Almighty God and the Continental Congress" and Joubert's "The English are Mighty but God is Almighty." May the God of battles be with them, and may they realize as we have done, their dream of independence. Long live the republic of South Africa. Shame upon our own, that is not the way that we are growing younger.

If the Spanish writers at the beginning of the war had modified their statement just a little and said that the republican party was a set "pigs" they would not have been so very far wrong. In those days Grosvenor was not declaring that we were going to make as much out of them as possible and apply the constitution when we got ready.

The populist party of South Dakota held a meeting of the state committee at Mitchell last week. It was by far the largest state committee meeting of the party ever held in the state and the enthusiasm was unbounded. They will hold their convention just one day before the national convention at Sioux Falls, a town near by, and all attend in a body. Hurrah for South Dakota!

Notwithstanding all of Senator Hoar's fine speeches in defense of the Declaration of Independence, he will be found supporting McKinley and imperialism with all the energy he can muster next fall. Besides his other delusions he imagines that the election of Bryan would be a more complete destruction of this republic than the overthrow of the constitution and the defiance of the doctrine that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. He is troubled with partisan insanity.

Nicaragua canal, unfortified would be a free gift of it to England in case we ever came to war with that government. She having the largest navy, could take it and use it against us. But if the canal was fortified, we could hold it and if we could not force our ships through her blockade, one thing is certain, she could not get her ships through the canal. The gift of the canal in case of war with England, to that "most enlightened nation," after we have built it with our own money, is what that diplomatic galoot, Hay, calls defending American interests.

All the London papers poked fun at us for the peace jubilees we held after we had whipped the Spaniards and said we had hysterics. When forty thousand English troops after ten days of hard fighting and tremendous losses, England and Scotland had hysterics for three days, and not satisfied with that they got their old queen up—and she is 81 years old—and paraded her up and down the streets. Then they concluded to send her over to Ireland, where she has not been for nearly fifty years. The Irish will treat the good old queen well enough but they will not change their opinion concerning the British government.

One of the Porto Ricans knocked the wind out of the ways and means committee the other day by a short speech that he made. When told that a fifteen per cent tariff did not amount to much, he submitted indisputable figures to prove that in one case a tariff which netted the government, \$4,000,000, enabled a trust to shove down in its pockets \$24,000,000. The tariff was not for revenue for the Porto Ricans even if it was expended there, but for the sugar and tobacco trusts. It was an argument in tariff economics that the committee did not have any reply to.

Rosewater helps out Clem Deaver and the "True Populist" after the following fashion, in the editorial columns of the Bee last Monday morning: "It must be depressing for Omaha populists who size up the returns of the city election in an effort to discover what the populists are to get out of the fusion program. Having been sacrificed so often to the greed of the democratic machine the experience may not have the element of novelty, yet True Populists must be amazed at the way their party has been dissipated by subjection to the democratic quest for spoils."

The editor of the Independent is receiving numerous notices and letters from parties in the east announcing anti-imperialist meetings and asking for mention in this paper. They can save themselves the trouble. They will get no notices until they have advanced far enough to declare that they will under no circumstances support the candidates of the republican party in the next election. We are not so stupid as we were when we used to hold non-partisan bimetallic conferences and conventions. They cheated us that way once, and it was their fault, but they will not cheat us again. There is but one way to beat imperialism and that is to fight Mark Hanna and McKinley and work for W. J. Bryan. These chaps are simply working to hold voters to the republican party just as they did when they attended bimetallic conventions. We've had enough of that kind of business.

The general attack made upon the editor of the Independent and the ridiculous whoppers that Clem Deaver and all of the Wharton Barker papers are publishing about him, makes him feel so good that he raises his feet four feet high at every step as he walks along the streets of Lincoln. It makes him feel young again, for it brings up the old times when he first pitched into this gang twenty-five years ago. That is the way that the tools of plutocracy went for him then. Keep it up, assistant republicans. You don't know how much real pleasure we derive from it. Every man we meet says that we are growing younger.

MARK HANNA'S PLAN.

One of the plans to be pursued by Mark Hanna in the next campaign is so fully developed that there is no way to further disguise it. It is to encourage and aid the formation of parties in all the states that will have a tendency to draw votes away from Bryan. The very extensive accounts sent out by the associated press of the meeting of the socialists and social democracy at Indianapolis, the other day, show what aid will be given to the plan. When the populist party numbered ten times as many voters as are in the party that assembled at Indianapolis, the associated press refused to send a word concerning its meetings and actually issued orders to its correspondents not to report its vote when giving election returns. Now here is a little organization which claims a few thousand registered members, given a report of extended length in every daily in the United States. Why? Because it is expected by having this organization, a few votes can be drawn away from Bryan. The State Journal says so without equivocation in the following words: "The social democrats will not poll a very heavy vote next November, but they will draw whatever votes they have from the Bryanite ranks of '96."

Wherever it is thought that votes can be manipulated or restrained from going to Bryan by the encouragement of the Wharton Barker bolters from the populist party, that policy will be pursued. The republican and socialist press are everywhere giving false accounts of the meeting of the populist national committee at Lincoln. This is what the Independent Herald, of Bertrand, Neb., has to say on the subject: "It seems from further accounts of the meeting of the populist national committee at Lincoln last week that the anti-fusionists were largely in the majority. When they were turned down by the somewhat arbitrary action of the chairman, they proceeded to organize another meeting, electing new officers for the committee and calling a national convention to meet at Cincinnati. The other convention will be held at Sioux Falls, S. D. Thus there will be two populist organizations, although the fusion wing now belongs to all intents and purposes, to the democratic party."

This paper has given frequent warning to the populists in that section of the state concerning the Independent Herald. They can now judge for themselves whether it pays to give populist support to a socialist paper. Hanna knows he is in very great danger in Ohio. His plan there is to prevent, in any way possible, a union of forces against the republican party. If such a union can be effected, the republican party would be in a minority in that state of something like sixty thousand. Populism hardly has an organization there. Coaxism, socialism, the general idiocy of the men who got control of the party organization and Col. Dick's checks killed it. Not much to be gained from the further manipulation of that crowd and Hanna has set to work to organize and aid the Union Reform movement, by which means he thinks he can pull off ten or twelve thousand votes.

One of the members of the national committee from Kansas at the recent meeting publicly announced that the greatest danger to populist success in that state was socialism. That is just what the Independent has been warning them against for the last four years. He said the social labor party would have a full ticket in the field from presidential electors down to road supervisors, and they would fight the populist party with great bitterness. The Topeka Advocate, since it sold out to the Mark Hanna crowd, has pretended to be a strictly agricultural paper, but last week it gave the socialists a great boost. So it seems that Hanna will push the socialist party in Kansas.

In other states the same general plan will be followed. In Nebraska not much damage can be done. The same trick has been tried before. The Clem Deaver, Bill Deck, Stebbins crowd are well known. Dech polled, we believe, eleven votes in his own county in his first great bucking feat. It is very doubtful if Clem Deaver can poll as many in his own county. The foregoing is the kind of work that Hanna will engage in. The great issues of the campaign he will of course have nothing to do with. It is the tricks and schemes that will employ his time.

ALL A SHAM

Populists should not put any faith in the pretended revival of patriotism in the republican party. It is all a sham. They are playing the same old game that they have played for the last twenty-five years. They never give up their pretense that they were for bimetalism until this congress met and did not fully do so then. They have even tacked a bimetallic fraud onto the present gold bill. Their claim that there is a division among their leaders concerning the trampling of the constitution under foot and the establishment of despotism in Porto Rico is a sham and a pretense. There is no division among them. Every one of them will be found supporting McKinley and the colonial system in the next election.

Don't be fooled by them. They are practicing the same pretense that kept tens of thousands of men voting the republican ticket for twenty years because they thought the republican party was favorable to bimetalism. Even such acute men as Teller was kept in the party by that pretense up to 1896. Now they

are going "to pretend" that a part of them still believe in the declaration of independence and will uphold the constitution. There is nothing in it. They only expect by that means to hold a lot of voters who are only mildly inflicted with partisan insanity. Every one of them intend to support the McKinley colonial system. Every one of them will vote for it, just as they voted for the gold bill and then they, like Hollar, will turn round and say: "You needn't quote any speeches on us. We have changed our minds."

NOTICE

Parties attending the state convention who desire to pay their subscriptions or the subscription of a friend are requested to MAKE THE PAYMENT AT THE OFFICE, corner 13th and N streets. Do not pay the money to ANY PERSON on the street. This is the only course that will avoid mistakes. Please bear it in mind. Call at the office where the books are kept, make the payment and you will get proper credit. If you pay it to ANY PERSON agent or otherwise on the street he may forget, to report it to the office, may forget the address, may forget the amount, may forget the initials, may forget the name, or as sometimes happens, may forget the whole business. Either call at the office and make the payment or take your money home with you and send it in by mail. Do not pay it to any person on the street under any circumstances.

If a party wants to carry an election in an American city the opposing candidate should not be depicted as a defaulter, a criminal, as a supporter of the "reservation," or as obscene in his language. Such a course as that is sure to result in his election. There has not been a case where it has not so resulted in the last twenty years. There is nothing strange about it, either. The preachers and church people will vote their party ticket, no matter who is nominated, and all the four mouthed villains in both parties will rally to such a candidate. The people of Lincoln have not forgotten Graham and his platform for a wide open saloon and protection for the reservation. Until the partisan insanity of the church people is overcome, there will be no hope of reform in American cities. We hope Omaha has learned a lesson.

THE WRONG SPIRITS.

The following from Mr. Ignatius Donnelly's paper, the representative, may explain some things in the conduct of that distinguished gentleman that have greatly perplexed his old friends. The article is signed by the initials E. A. T., which are those of Mr. Twitchel, the associate editor of the paper.

"Mr. Donnelly has investigated the subject of spiritualism deeply, and has a very interesting lecture which he delivers on the subject, full of curious and wonderful experiences. He has had interviews with what purported to be the spirits of Napoleon I., Lincoln, Garfield, William Windom, Bismarck, John Brown, Guiteau and a host of others. He has detected them in many mistakes and falsehoods. He does not believe their statements, but he is trying to find out what produces them."

Mr. Donnelly has certainly been imposed upon, for it is hardly possible that the spirit of Lincoln would be caught telling falsehoods. Mr. Donnelly has evidently been under the guidance of the wrong kind of spirits for the last three years.

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Since the meeting of the populist national committee, letters have been received by the editor of the Independent as well as other persons in Lincoln from nine different states pledging their delegations to vote for Mr. Edmisten for chairman of the national committee of the people party. These letters have been without solicitation from any one, but are the judgment of these men who were at Lincoln and saw the result of his work here, that the interest of the party will best be secured if Mr. Edmisten will accept the office. Several gentlemen have also suggested that the headquarters of the party should be in Lincoln as the most convenient and centrally located point for directing the battle that is to be fought.

Some Nebraska populists have objected to Mr. Edmisten taking the national chairmanship because they want him for state chairman. The Independent cannot see why it should not hold both places. In fact it believes the Nebraska campaign could be fought with even more effectiveness if he held both chairmanships.

The populist party needs an organizer of Mr. Edmisten's capacity very badly. Heretofore they have had no organized national campaign at all. Last time the headquarters were in Washington, as far away as possible to get from the fighting forces in the party. This time we want them in the west where the populist voters live.

With Edmisten to plan and manage the campaign, the people party will put up a fight that will make the hair on Mark Hanna's head stand on end, and at the end of it the republican party will be in the same fix nationally, that it was in Nebraska after Edmisten organized the forces in this state. Boys, let us go up to Sioux Falls and make him national chairman.

Club of five subscribers from now until January 1, 1901, for \$2.50. Every body trusts.