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Want to trade? We do. We trade a good watch for a club of twelve. What do you say?

The republican editors of this state are expressing their disgust because as they say: "The fusionists are everywhere adopting the same old platform."

Milton Parks is now advocating a fusion on Debs. When the hard headed Texas farmers get onto that deal Milton Parks will imagine that he is in the middle of an earthquake.

Otis, having failed to convince the people by a continuous stream of cablegrams that the "war is over," is now coming over himself. He is determined that an "over" shall be accomplished somehow.

Mark Hanna may be able to buy some votes with the millions contributed by the trusts but the burdens which their predatory habits have inflicted on the people of this country will drive away ten where he can buy five.

The city elections have created a great deal of alarm at the republican headquarters at Washington. Columbus, Ohio, which usually goes republican by about 20,000, went democratic this year by about 800 and Kansas city has elected a democratic mayor for the first time since 1892.

It is about time for the republican party to change its name. It evidently no longer believes in a republican form of government, at least not in Porto Rico, the Philippines, the Transvaal or any where else that has been heard of since McKinley became president.

Frank Burkitt who was so red hot against fusion now comes out in the Southern Mercury in advocacy of fusion on Debs if the socialists will only give to fuzzie wuzzies the second place on the ticket. These fuzzie wuzzies are strange people.

"The flag does not mean one thing in Porto Rico and another in the United States" said President McKinley, which is only another exemplification of the republican habit of doing just exactly contrary to what they promise. "You needn't quote any speeches on us. We have changed our minds" is always a satisfactory reply to any kick coming from the people.

The news from the Philippines that Fred Funston and other military officers there are shooting down Filipinos without a trial is a fit accompaniment of the passage of the Porto Rican bill. Men in these islands have no rights which the conquering nation is bound to respect. The trial by jury or in any other way is not secured them by the constitution. They are simply subjects.

Uncle Paul Kruger says that he has documents in his possession to prove that every one of the British Generals in the field will be except Lord Roberts. Uncle Paul should not be too hard on these generals. He must remember that they were not brought up with a bible in their hands as the commanders in the Boer army were. They should not be blamed for the defects of their early education.

In the State Journal of last Friday there were nearly three columns put up in the interests of the D. Clem Deaver crowd: Even Bixby came to their aid once more, but the poor fellow was evidently suffering from the blues. His soul had been made exceedingly sorrowful because the Independent called those chaps fuzzie wuzzies. He should not feel so badly about it. That title was taken from the great classical writer of the imperialists, Rudyard Kipling.

Clem Deaver sends dispatches to the great republican dailies to the effect that the courts in his state have declared that this gang is the legal populist party and Milton Park prints the following in his paper down in Texas: "It was openly declared by the fusion leaders at Lincoln at the meeting of the national populist committee that they did not care if the southern populists did leave the party—that they were not needed anyhow. They may all go to the niggers where they belong." From these two instances there will be no trouble in coming to a conclusion as to the moral standing of these two most eminent fuzzie wuzzies.

THE PLATFORM.
There is nothing to hinder the national convention at Sioux Falls from stating the true populist position on the money question in words so plain that no man can mistake the meaning thereof. This is the right time to do it, and it is to be hoped that it will be done. It has been the democrats who have raved about sixteen to one, and not the populists. Let us be done with that, and make a statement on the money question in line with the teachings of John Stuart Mill, and all the economists of authority who have ever written on the subject. The value of money depends upon its quantity, regardless of the material that may be used upon which to print the decree of the sovereignty that issues it.

The populists have advocated silver because there were outstanding nearly a thousand millions of bonds, and upon the face of every bond there was printed the contract that it was payable in either silver or gold. Now the republicans have withdrawn all those bonds and issued others in their place that are payable in gold only. That changes the whole situation.

Let us make one demand, and let that be that the government shall issue all money, and that all money shall, every dollar of it, be a full legal tender. We may also say that as long as metal is used for money that gold and silver shall both be coined without discrimination against either metal, and that we are unalterably opposed to making one metal the only thing upon which legal tender can be printed. Now, that is and always has been the populist idea on the money question. Why should we not say so? If the democrats want to howl about redemption money and 16 to 1, let them do it. They will learn better after a while. They have learned a great deal in the last four years. The one fundamental and essential thing is to declare that the government only shall issue money and control the quantity, and that that power shall never be delegated to any corporation or person whatever. Let us be populists and let the other fellows be democrats until they learn better, and give every one a chance to reform the present highway robbery system established by the banks and the trusts by all uniting in electing W. J. Bryan president of the United States.

MAKING THE END

A bill more widely affecting our form of government than was ever before presented to congress was rushed through the house with less than five hours discussion with the privilege of printing arguments against it for ten days after its passage. This Porto Rican bill, if it becomes the policy of this nation makes a complete change in our form of government from that of a republic to that of an empire. It repudiates the doctrine upon which this government was founded and has grown to be the greatest nation on earth, to-wit, that all men have certain inalienable rights. It is a declaration that a strong nation can conquer a weak nation and disregarding the rights of man, govern them by force. It declares that the United States consist of the states only and that those who live in the territories are not citizens of the United States. They are subjects. They have no rights that we are bound to respect. They are in a worse condition than the niggers before the war. What do the people of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma think of this? Hon. E. J. Burkett was paired against the bill and he will come back from Washington and begin to talk about the dear old flag. Thurston and Mercer both supported the bill. They will hear from Nebraska on that subject at the next election. The inalienable rights of man are no longer recognized by the republican party. They have adopted the principles of George III, Calhoun and Jeff Davis. And these hypocrites will wrap the flag around them and say "see how loyal we are" They are getting near the end of their reign.

THE NEW ECONOMICS

The economics of modern imperialism is somewhat astonishing to men of ordinary common sense. Their theory seems to be that the world can get rich by destroying the present inhabitants, and the property that has been accumulated by past generations. Krupp alone employs 41,750 men making engines of death and destruction. Many thousands more are employed in Germany alone, in the same sort of business besides an immense standing army that consumes without producing anything, what thousands of others produce. England is engaged in the same sort of thing and even to a greater extent. It is proposed that this nation shall also employ many thousands of its best workers in this novel way of producing wealth by consuming without producing and destroying much of what has been accumulated. This is what may be called the new economics. Its high priest in this country is Hanna and in England it is Joe Chamberlain.

MESSAGE TO KRUGER

There was an occurrence in Philadelphia the other day that shows that notwithstanding the efforts of McKinley and Mark Hanna to make this republic an empire, the American school boy cannot be deceived. The boys who live around Independence hall where the declaration of independence was signed, although the republican national convention is to be held there, resolved that

they would take a hand in the fight themselves. To carry out their designs they wrote out a message of sympathy to President Kruger who is fighting the bravest fight ever made on earth for the very principles that were first given to the world in Independence hall. They got a lot of boys around Philadelphia to sign it and then sent it down to New York and Boston and the school boys there added their names to it. In all there were more than 20,000 names. Then they concluded that they would have a parade. Thousands of them marched through the streets of Philadelphia, carrying the flag of Kruger's republic and the stars and stripes. After that they went to a hall which would hold thousands of people. The hall was packed and there were many thousands outside who could not get in. They got some men to make speeches for them. There was a district telegraph messenger call box in the hall and the boys gave it a ring. In a short time an American District Telegraph messenger boy appeared on the stage. He was handed the great roll containing the message to Kruger to which were attached the 20,000 names and the boy started off on a run to catch the first steamer for South Africa.

When the call was received by the superintendent of the messenger service for a boy to carry a message to Kruger, the superintendent went to the place where the boys sit waiting for their turn to be called. Picking out one, sixteen years old, whose name was James Francis Smith, he said:

"Jimmy, how would like to go to Pretoria with a message to President Kruger?"
"Very much, sir," said Jimmy.
"Can you start Wednesday?"
"Yes, sir."

"Have you any fear of not being able to get there?"
"No, sir."
"Suppose you find that President Kruger is in St. Helena when you arrive at Pretoria: what will you do?"

"Take the message to him at St. Helena," said Jimmy.
"Do you know where St. Helena is?"
"Oh, yes. It's the place the English put Napoleon."
That was satisfactory and Jimmy started on his long journey to carry a message from the school boys to Kruger. The one who carried "the letter to Garcia" was a grown up man and an officer in the army. Jimmy is only a boy, but he will carry the message to Kruger all right. The American boys love liberty and sympathize with all who are fighting for it.

INEVITABLE NOTORIETY.

Lincoln is getting an unenviable notoriety these days through the cranks Thurston and Meiklejohn have taken to Washington, as well as through these gentlemen themselves. It seems that before McKinley sent his message to congress declaring it to be our plain duty to give free trade with the United States to Cuba, he asked for legal opinions upon the subject. One Magoon, who hails from Lincoln, wrote an opinion, and here it is:

After referring to Spain's cession of the island the opinion says:
"Thereupon the territory conveyed became a part of the United States, and as such subject to the constitution. No further action by congress was necessary or possible. The constitution does not depend upon congress for authority in any part of the United States. The reverse of the proposition is the fact. From this time on congress must look to the constitution for authority to legislate for Porto Rico."

After Oxnard, Duke, and other trust magnates informed McKinley that they would not put up for the republican campaign fund unless they were allowed to loot poor Porto Rico, McKinley called for another opinion, and Magoon furnished it as promptly as he did the first one. In this last one he declares that the constitution don't cover Porto Rico at all, and that it is nonsense to claim that it does, or words to that effect. This is on a par with the performances of Coal Oil Johnny, who, while employed by the state, took a fee to fight the state. That also added to the unenviable notoriety of the state. It seems that these republican leaders are determined to bring all the disgrace possible on Nebraska before they are finally driven from power. There is one consolation: it will not be long until they are all retired to private life.

REPUBLICAN PROMISES

It would be a good thing instead of too much recrimination for the populists to take with them when they go out to work for reform the republican platform that was adopted at St. Louis, read it to their republican neighbors and then ask them how many of the promises that were made in that platform have been kept. After the platform makers get through with their denunciations of Grover Cleveland, whose measures could never have been adopted except for the assistance of every republican leader and were the policies of the republicans, which they there denounced, they begin to make promises. Their first promise reads this way:
"We are therefore opposed to the free coinage of silver except by international agreement with leading nations of the world, which we pledge ourselves to promote."

They next denounced the administration of the pension bureau and promised to give the old soldiers the full benefit of the pension laws. Did they keep that promise? The G. A. R. has been engaged in denouncing the administration of the pension bureau ever since and demanding that the pension commissioner should be removed.
They next say that "our foreign policy should be at all times firm, vigorous and dignified and all our interests in the western hemisphere watched and guarded." Have they kept that promise? The

A SUGGESTION

The attention of the readers of the Independent is called to the premium offer "watches for everybody" to be found on page 8. We are anxious to continue the increase in the circulation of the Independent. Thanks to the co-operation of many loyal friends it has been growing steadily. We believe that as it has grown it has been made better in many ways. As it continues to grow it will continue to improve. It is therefore to the interest of every reader to speak a good word for the Independent to his neighbors to secure their subscriptions if possible. The premium watch offered is a good one—fully guaranteed for one year—a watch that retails at six dollars everywhere. The Independent (in connection with another publisher) placed an order for 1000 watches of the same pattern and design. That's why we can give so good a watch for so little money or so little effort on your part. The watch is given as a premium for twelve NEW campaign subscriptions at 35 cents each. It is seven months until election and the rate of 35 cents for that period is low enough that anyone should be able to secure the twelve subscriptions in a few hours. Try it and you'll be surprised how easy it is. Get a premium for yourself or your boy. We guarantee that you'll not regret it. If you want sample copies write and we will send them. A subscription blank is enclosed in this weeks paper. Preserve it for use when sending in the club.

BRAINS FOR SALE

The old argument for denominational schools was something like this: Man is a devil—totally depraved. Educate him and you have an educated devil, capable of just that much more evil. The only safety in education is to accompany it with such religious discipline and constant instruction in religion that it will turn the evil nature into the right channels.

Of late years this view of the case seems to have some force. Men are educated at the expense of the state and no attention at all is given to the development of the moral and ethical. The consequence is that hundreds of educated men are sent out into society who have brains for sale as men sell merchandise, and to which there is attached no more of the moral or ethical than to a bale of cotton that is put upon the market. They are simply for sale to the highest bidder.

Plutocracy being always able to bid the highest gets the service of all these men. They appear in educational institutions, in literature, in the press and in the pulpit. The magazines are filled with their writings.

In the courts this has always been the case. A lawyer will sell his brains to either party in the case. The lawyer has a better excuse for so doing than the other parties who are in the same business. He says that both sides of a case should always be presented before the judge and jury.

When it comes to the discussion of sociology and political economy the case is different. Here the rule should be that truth and truth only should be sought after. This is not the practice however. Many hundreds of men who have been trained in these sciences are ready to sell their brains to attack what they well know is the truth. Such work can be found in almost any of the magazines every month in the year. It is not at all hard for the trained economists to detect such writing. There will be sentences that show that the writer knows what the truth is.

There would little harm come from selling brains as merchandise is sold, if the fact were generally known. Then the reader would take up such articles without feeling and calmly dissect them. The case is altogether different when such articles appear as accepted deductions of science. There is where the fraud comes in. Such men should put out a single like a lawyer and should have printed on it: "Brains For Sale."

REPUBLICAN PROMISES

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Have they kept that promise?
They next denounced the administration of the pension bureau and promised to give the old soldiers the full benefit of the pension laws. Did they keep that promise? The G. A. R. has been engaged in denouncing the administration of the pension bureau ever since and demanding that the pension commissioner should be removed.
They next say that "our foreign policy should be at all times firm, vigorous and dignified and all our interests in the western hemisphere watched and guarded."

Have they kept that promise? The trucking of the administration to the English and the making of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty in which American rights were surrendered to England in such a shameful manner that even a republican senate will not ratify it, is a complete answer to the question.
Then they say, "We re-assert the Monroe doctrine in its full extent." Have they kept that promise? Clauses in the Hay-Pauncefote treaty annul the Monroe treaty completely.
Then they declared their sympathy with Cuba and said that "the United States should use its influence and good offices to restore peace and give independence to the island." It was only the resolution passed by a free silver man which passed congress when war was declared that prevented the administration from attempting to annex Cuba instead of giving the island independence.
They promised that "every citizen of the United States shall be allowed to cast one free and unrestricted ballot, and that ballot shall be counted and returned as cast." Did they mean that each citizen should cast only one vote? Did they keep that promise when there was a vote counted for every two inhabitants in the state of Ohio?
They said: "We favor the creation of a national board of arbitration to settle and adjust differences which may arise between employers and employed engaged in interstate commerce." Have they introduced or passed any such law as that?
They say, "we urge the passage by congress of a free homestead measure which has passed the house and is now pending in the senate." Have they kept that promise?
They said: "We favor the admission of the remaining territories." Have any of the territories been admitted to statehood? Instead of that, they have declared that they are not even in the United States and have no rights that congress is bound to respect.
They said: "We believe that the citizens in Alaska should have representation in congress." Have they kept that promise? They now declare that the people of Alaska are not citizens but subjects.
Last of all they say: "The republican party is mindful of the rights of women * * * equal pay for equal work." Have they kept that promise? Do women get equal pay for equal work.
Such were the promises made to the people in the St. Louis platform. The men who made them have repudiated every one of them and if charged with the offense they reply: "We have changed our minds." On that record of infamy they have come before the people for endorsement.

SPECIAL PLEADERS

The plutocracy has provided for the special pleader and trained him not only in all sciences that pertain to his vocation, but he is also taught all the little tricks of the trade. The great institutions endowed by the millionaires give him a free education in English, logic and the one specialty in which his talent is to be exercised. There is only one thing that he must furnish himself and that is a fairly clear intellect which is not troubled in the least with any problem in ethics.
The special pleader knows all the old tricks as well as the modern inventions and he applies them with all the skill of the college bred man. Professor Harry Pratt Judson, professor of political economy in the Chicago university, employs one of these old tricks of the special pleader in an article in the April number of the Review of Reviews, in discussing the "constitution and the territories."
He first states in a very clear and forcible manner a proposition that he knows will attract and mollify the opponents of imperialism and then follows it with a beautifully constructed, specious, special pleading in favor of imperialism. His first statement is as follows:
"Among the curious features of this debate is the controversy as to whether congress can by statute 'extend' the constitution over a given territory, and also as to whether, being thus extended, the constitution may by further statute be withdrawn. A more grotesque conception can hardly be imagined. Saving only by the admission of new states, congress has no more power to 'extend' the constitution over a specific area than it has to square the circle by legislation or to repeal the law of gravitation. The constitution is absolutely beyond the will of congress. Wherever it is law, it is law irrespective of congress. Wherever it is the constitution it is the organic law—and that is law which congress can neither expand nor contract. In whatever area it is not of its own force the organic law, no possible action of congress can make it such."

Having made that statement so as to gain the good will and attention of the anti-imperialist, he next begins his fine spun pleading on the other side of the question. He quotes part of Section 3, Article 5 of the constitution, which reads: "The congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States." From this he argues that congress has absolute power over the inhabitants of the territories. The rights of man are therein abolished. Congress is an unlimited legislative despotism. It can make all the inhabitants slaves or do anything else it sees fit in regard to them.
Such is the work of the college bred special pleader. Mark Hanna makes a great deal of use of such gentlemen.

PLUNDERING PORTO RICO.

There never was such a shameful plundering of a helpless people as is provided for in the Porto Rico bill that has now become a law. It should be remembered always that the bill for its government was tacked on to the house act in the senate and that it passed the house without one word of discussion, the few minutes allowed on each side being devoted to other matters.

The facts are these. The people of the little island of less than a million inhabitants have had saddled on to them one of the most expensive and costly government machines ever set up in a colony by a conquering army. The people there are in a state of starvation, the inhabitants are in rags—some of them not even having rags with which to hide their wretchedness.

To govern this starving people, the republican majority in congress provide the following officers and salaries:
Governor \$9,000
Secretary 4,000
Attorney General 4,000
Treasurer 5,000
Auditor 4,000
Commissioner of the interior 4,000
Commissioner of education 3,000
Chief justice of supreme court 5,000
Associate justice 4,500
Associate justice 4,500
United States marshal 3,000
United States district attorney 4,000
United States district judge 5,000
District marshal 3,600
Collector of customs 3,000
Collector of internal revenue 3,000
Commissioner to United States 5,000
Commissioners to revise laws (3) 5,000
Five members executive council, salary not fixed.
Thirty-five members of legislature, \$5 per diem.
Clerk of supreme court, salary not fixed.
Interpreter supreme court, salary not fixed.
Clerk district court, salary not fixed.
Interpreter district court, salary not fixed.

All of these officials, with the exception of the members of the legislature, who are elected, and the clerks and interpreters of the courts, who are selected by the judges, are appointed by the president.
We who reside in Nebraska think our taxes are pretty high, and we complain of the cost of government. Nebraska is much larger and has more inhabitants than Porto Rico. Our governor gets \$2,500. This Porto Rican governor gets \$9,000. These McKinley carpet baggers are to squeeze out of these starving Porto Ricans from \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year each.

A man who would go to Porto Rico and take a salary like that which has been taxed out of these starving wretches is not fit to live on God's green earth. But this is not the worst of it. This carpet bag government will have the giving away of all the franchises in the island. There are railroads to be built, electric light and street car rights to be granted. No wonder there is weeping from one end of that island to the other. They asked the rights granted to all men under our constitution. This what they have received. It is one of the blackest crimes in all history.

The lower house of congress has passed the necessary resolutions to submit a constitutional amendment to the several state legislatures allowing the people to elect senators. Now probably the senate will finally fail to pass it as it has two or three times before. The Mark Hanna, Clark and Quay senators do not want to go before the people for they can buy a legislature much cheaper. They know they could not get there by a vote of the people.

The excise board of the city of Lincoln made a new rule before granting any licenses this year; it is this, that no games of any kind will be allowed in the saloon or in adjacent rooms. Now if they would go a little further and provide that but one entrance, either side, back, down or up, would be allowed, and no chairs, tables or lights, then the curse of the saloon would be reduced one-half. Let customers stand up and do their business as they do in banks.

The United States has to furnish food for the starving East Indian people, while the vast English army eats the products of the country which should go to feed the natives. Away with standing armies! Better let the people cut each others throats than to let a foreign army starve them all to death. Where will the food come from when our armies devour all the substance of all the islands we are now trying to choke down?

Will the bondholders, bankers and money lenders be satisfied any length of time with the present money law? If McKinley is re-elected and the republicans have a majority in both houses of congress, will they not have another reform currency law to pass? They are very anxious for Bryan and his party to stop talking about silver, but at the same time are not willing to stop talking about gold themselves. If gold should be found in such abundance as to lower its purchasing power, the goldbug fraternity will not hesitate to enlarge the gold dollar.

Twelve large iron mills have just closed their doors and stopped work in order to keep the price of iron up. That is a fair sample of McKinley property.

Another University Chancellor has been elected, Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews, now superintendent of the Chicago city schools. His refusal or acceptance is to be given in ten days. We hope he will accept, for he is an eastern man with western proclivities and stands at the head of his class as an educator and manager of students. As an author he occupies no mean place in the literary world. He did not like him at Brown because he stood up for the common people. The rich people who gave and willed money to the school did not like the whole truth. Our university has no strings of that kind. He will be sure to fit.

American residents in China complain about a secret society there, the object of which is to annoy foreign residents. They are called "boxers." Why do not the Chinamen stop foreigners from coming in, just as we stop Chinamen from coming here. That would make music all along the line.
The Washington treasury statement makes it out that there is over two billions of dollars in circulation. They count all the gold and silver in the treasury and all the reserves in the banks, and then on top of that count all the gold and silver certificates and bank bills.

It is evident that public sentiment in Columbus is strongly opposed to Admiral Dewey as a presidential candidate of either of the great parties. The consensus of opinion seems to be that as a presidential factor in any capacity "Dewey won't do."
The Press-Post has recently tested public sentiment on this subject by sup-

porting the admiral for the democratic nomination, with a result well known to the people of Ohio, and to the whole country.

The Press-Post has no other desire than to represent the people and has merely availed itself of an opportunity to learn their wishes.

Mr. Huntington will be restored as editor and the Press-Post will support Mr. Bryan. The plain people were never more united in their support of any man than they are at present in support of Mr. Bryan. Long may he live to lead and champion their cause.

The Seneca Chronicle, of Kansas, has sold out to the republicans. Its new editor says that the many populists on its list will like to read the other side for a while. If the other side ever had an argument to make they probably would. If it will print any good reasons why the declaration of independence should be ignored, the rights of man denied, and the constitution trampled under foot, populists will read with interest, but as no republican paper ever has done anything of the kind, there is not much prospect that this new editor will.

HARDY'S COLUMN

- Good Crops—University Chancellor Elected—Americans in China—Volume of Circulation—Just Assessments—Republics Develop—Election of Senators—Excise Board Rules—Who Will Furnish Us Food—Will They Be satisfied—Iron Works Stop—Standard Oil Company—Change the Laws—Tax the Rich—All Solid—Keep Out of Debt.

So far everything works favorably for a fruit crop in Nebraska this year. Experts pronounce the peach buds in a healthy, live condition. A good crop of fruit makes lots of good eating at little expense. Fruit is a healthful luxury. It saves lots of doctor's bills and funerals. So far there is splendid promise of good crops of grain and grass. Rain seems abundant at the right time.

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The assessors are now at work all over the state. Will they take account of all the notes, mortgages, bonds, warrants and judgments that are drawing interest? We believe a law should be passed forbidding the collection of any debt over a year old that has not been listed for assessment and taxed.

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