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For President: WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN For Vice President: CHARLES A. TOWNE For Congressman 1st Dist: G. W. DUNN, Lincoln

The subscription blank enclosed in this week's paper is for your convenience in sending in a club. It is a special invitation to you.

If you want an elegant picture of Hon. W. J. Bryan, 17x22 inches (without any printing or advertising upon it) get up a club of 3 campaign subscriptions to the Independent and we will send you the picture and best. It's a handsome picture.

The Independent cannot refrain from paraphrasing Rudyard Kipling's latest aphorism and make it read this way: "This is the fact that the free man holds his own by his own hand."

The Independent for the campaign 25 cents. Invite your neighbors to subscribe and it to your friends in the east. Read the premium offers, the most liberal ever made. We've met you more than half way. Will you do your part?

When sending in clubs DO NOT FAIL to designate the premium you desire. Cut out the advertisement and put a check mark opposite the premium offer you wish filled. Also be particular to spell all names correctly and give the proper postoffice addresses.

"By their fruits ye shall know them." McKinley put a trust attorney in his cabinet and placed another one on the supreme bench. Now he is going to run for president on a platform denouncing trusts. He'll take care of the trusts as Mark Hanna says.

The United States Investor is talking about "representative value" again. That idea is one of the freaks of thought that is perfectly unaccountable to a sane mind. A thing either has value or has not. It is worth something or it is worth nothing. One might as well talk about a representative head-ache as a representative value.

If a farmer buys foreign goods he pays about 15 cents on every dollar, the Dingy bill tax. If he buys home made goods he pays the same amount extra as a bonus to the manufacturer, who always prices things up to the full amount of the tariff. The farmer who votes for these tariff taxes should be asked to explain what he gets out of the deal.

The war department still refuses to furnish an answer to the resolution of the senate that was passed many weeks ago in regard to the contracts and expenses under Otis in the Philippines. When those documents are made public the Cuban postoffice steals will fade into insignificance. Government by pro-consuls has been a government of corruption since history began.

Wharton Barker called on McKinley and then remarked to an Associated Press reporter as he came out: "My nomination at Cincinnati makes the election of Bryan impossible. The fight this year will not be on the money question. Isn't there a world of inspiration in those two declarations for the 'true populists'?" How the old Alliance men will get out and whoop it up for Barker!

The Union Pacific, the Idaho Midland and the Rio Grande Western railways are all displacing white labor with Japanese coolies brought here under the protecting wing of the McKinley administration in violation of the contract labor laws. The trust influence is all in favor of coolie labor and what the trusts want they get without much trouble from the Mark Hanna outfit that runs the government at Washington.

Dunn and Bradstreet seem to be in the dumps these days. They can't figure out the property let them try as they will. Just let them wait until the July interest becomes payable on the trust stocks and then they will have something to weep over sure enough. It won't strike the west this time but the eastern investor in trust inflation will get the same dose that was administered to the west in 1893.

PUT HIS FOOT IN IT It has always been a mystery to every sensible man why the disruptionists picked up such a man as Wharton Barker. There is nothing about him or in his history to commend him to populists. He has devoted his life to defending tariff robberies. More than twenty volumes of his writings have been published by the aid of the tariff barons in defense of their schemes. Carnegie and all the tariff barons owe a great deal to Wharton Barker for the aid he has given them. He has never changed his opinions on these subjects and is today a high protectionist. He was a banker of the regular republican sort—that is he ran his bank until he got all the money from depositors that was possible. Then his bank failed and a confiding public was robbed of many thousands of dollars. He has never made any effort to make restitution. Instead of that, what property he had he put in his wife's name.

Worse than all that, he does not seem to have any political sense. His effort to aid in McKinley's election must be covert to be of any effect. He does not seem to have sense enough to know that much, and makes an open boast of it. According to the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record he went to call upon McKinley and openly boasted of the aid he was going to give in beating Bryan. The following is the report of that visit that was sent to Chicago. Mark what Barker says. It is an open boast that he will defeat Bryan and elect McKinley. The fuzzle wuzzles have done some strange things but this visit of Barker's to McKinley and the boast that he is in the race for the sole purpose of beating Bryan is about the silliest act that ever went on record. The Record says:

"President McKinley had the pleasure of meeting one of his opponents in the presidential race this morning when Wharton Barker, the nominee of the middle of the roaders," called at the white house to pay his respects. The president and Mr. Barker have been friends for many years, having been closely identified in protective tariff organizations, and will doubtless continue to be, notwithstanding their present rivalry. Mr. Barker claims that his nomination makes the election of Bryan impossible.

In 1895 Bryan received about 6,500,000 votes, of which he lost 2,000,000 were cast by populists. This year I shall have the support of not less than 1,500,000 populists and probably 1,750,000, and where is Bryan going to get votes to take their places? If Gorman or some other conservative democrat should be nominated he might command the full support of the democratic party and carry the doubtful states in the east—but Bryan can't do it, and without them he cannot be elected."

A FRIEND—TRIED AND TRUE. We invite our friends to assist in increasing the circulation of the Independent. Thanks to the energetic assistance of many of them our list has been growing rapidly. Nothing more thoroughly demonstrates the intense interest the people are taking to secure the election of Mr. Bryan to the presidency. For years the Independent has been a staunch supporter of the noble leader of the common people. It has been tried and always found on the side of right. It leads in the battle in Nebraska this year. It fully appreciates the loyal support it has received from its readers, and realizes its responsibilities to the people who gave that support. It will battle for the success of the leader and the triumph of the principles so necessary for their welfare. We invite our friends to continue their support, and as the circulation and business increases the independent will be improved as it has been improved in the past. Send in as many new subscribers as you can.

No better method for securing results at the coming election can be found. All who have tried the plan have been more than satisfied with the good accomplished. The rates which we have made are low, very low when the price of white paper is considered. We have added four thousand five hundred new names to the list since the first of January and hope to add twice that many more before the close of the campaign. From time to time as the campaign grows shorter we shall reduce the campaign rate accordingly. During June the rate for the remainder of the campaign will be only 25c in clubs of three or more. For a club of three at that rate we will send as a souvenir to the party sending it in, a beautiful photograph of Mr. Bryan 17 by 21 inches, an elegant picture made from the latest Townsend negative, suitable for framing, a picture that is a handsome decoration for any parlor in the land. For a club of five at the 25c rate we will send three of the best books that can be found for circulation during the campaign—"Coin on Money, Trusts and Imperialism," "Private Smith in the Philippines," and "Imperialism—Extracts from speeches, interviews and articles by W. J. Bryan." These books retail at 25c each. We send ALL THREE OF THEM to any one sending in a club of 5 campaign subscriptions at twenty-five cents each during June. For a club of 12 at 25c each received during June we will send our elegant premium watch. These offers have never been equaled by any reform paper in the United States. We are not trying to make any profit on these transactions. Our object is to get everybody to read the Independent. Remember these offers are in force the first of June. Get your clubs ready and send them in on or before that date in

order that you may get the full benefit of the offer. Sample copies and subscription blanks will be furnished free to all who desire them.

REPUBLICAN EDITORIALS We have received several letters in which remarks are made about the queer sort of editorials that appear in the republican papers. Well they are "queer" sure enough. Here is one that was printed in the Bancroft Blade with all honesty no doubt. That editor got his facts from some other republican paper and then sat down and soberly wrote out the following: "The surplus at the end of the present fiscal year is estimated to be about \$20,000,000, that of the past year was \$70,000,000. The gold reserve is near a quarter of a billion. Bonds are being paid off as rapidly as they mature and they are even bought up. The change from the democratic state of affairs four years ago, when \$262,000,000 in bonds were issued to pay ordinary expenses and to keep the gold reserve above the danger line, and when there was a deficiency in revenues each month, is wonderful."

This poor fellow has never heard of the bill that recently passed congress refunding the national debt into 30 year bonds. He thinks that an act has been passed to pay off the bonds and he gravely informs his readers of the fact as it was his duty to do—if it had been a fact. Populists know that the whole bonded debt of the United States was rapidly falling due and that the income of the government was sufficient, or could be made sufficient, to pay off the debt as fast as it became due, but that instead of doing that, the McKinleyites extended the debt for thirty years and gave the new bonds to the bankers to bank on, so that they could draw interest on the bonds and on the money which was given to them in equal amount. The Bancroft Blade editor has never heard of any of these things and he wouldn't believe it if he was told. That isn't what he is there for. It is no wonder that populists think that the editorials in the republican papers are "queer."

The Independent ventured a while ago to say that when Otis started for home he would stop the ship before it got out of the harbor and go back and send a cablegram that the war was over. It didn't miss it very far. Just before he got on the ship he gave out an interview to the Associated Press which was promptly cabled, in which he said: "You know I am rather pessimistic. I am inclined to take the sanguine view prevailing in certain quarters, yet I have held the opinion for some time that the in-urrection is entirely over."

Since that time the skirmishes and fighting has gone on just as it has from the beginning. When Otis gets home McKinley is going to give him one grand reception. After that he is to be put in command of the best department in the United States. It don't matter what McKinley does to glory in Otis. When the summing up is finally made all the glory that Otis will get out of his fighting the Philippines he could put in the hollow of a gnat's heel.

General Brooke got a big slice of that Cuba pie. He got \$3,600 for house rent, \$7,500, which he drew as an army officer and \$7,500 additional salary allowed him from the Cuban funds, making a salary of \$18,600, which is considerably more than the ambassador to the Court of St. James receives or any other officer in the United States except the president. The present governor, General Wood, gets the same nice returns for his labor. He just taxes the Cubans and they foot the bill except for the salary he draws as an army officer. The old Romans knew what they were about when they invented this scheme. But those old scamps never pretended to carry on a war "for humanity." Whatever Cæsar's pro-consuls were, they were not hypocrites. They did not claim to be directed by "providence."

There are some very queer things shown up in the report of the Cuban pro-consuls management of the mails in that island. For instance, the transportation of the mails only cost in the whole island, \$14,000, while Mr. Rathbone paid out \$5,000 for the furniture of his office. Pro-consuls always did like to live in luxurious surroundings. The star route contractors received \$14,000, making a total of \$28,000, while the salaries amounted to \$219,000 for superintending this little business. If the Spaniards ever equalled that, the Cubans have never been able to point to the occasion when it was done.

The federal judges continue to hurl their injunctions at labor organizations with a profusion not heretofore equaled. In Kansas City, in St. Louis and elsewhere the federal judge is proving himself to be the great dependence of the corporations that have difficulty with making men work for less wages than will support their family in decency. The plank: "We are opposed to government by injunction still stands.

If you want a copy of "Coin on Money Trusts and Imperialism," a copy of "Private Smith in the Philippines," and a copy of "Imperialism, Extracts from lectures and speeches of Hon. W. J. Bryan," send in a club of 5 campaign subscriptions to the Independent at 25 cents each. They're good books all of them. The retail price is twenty-five cents for each. We give all of them for a club of five.

SCHOOL APPORTIONMENT State Treasurer Reserve, on Tuesday of this week, certified to State Superintendent Jackson that the sum of \$400,321.99 is in the state treasury, belonging to the temporary school fund and available for apportionment among the various counties. This sum is made up of the following items: From state school tax \$8,241.76 From interest on school lands sold 159,705.76 From interest on school lands leased 56,938.86 From interest on Saline lands sold 5,703.30 From interest on Saline lands leased 3,166.66 From interest on U. S. bonds 300.00 From interest on state bonds 2,266.66 From interest on county bonds 81,370.07 From interest on school district bonds 752.04 From interest on state warrants 2,547.18 From peddler's license 29.70 Total \$400,321.99

On looking over the records, the Independent finds that this is the second largest apportionment ever made in the history of the state, being exceeded only by that of May, 1898, which was \$430,695.98. This led the Independent to make some comparisons with apportionments made under republican administrations. The following table shows: Apportionments of the temporary school fund made during republican administrations. Dec. 1886 \$289,372.39 May, 1887 207,837.60 Dec. 1887 334,430.93 May, 1888 258,986.24 Dec. 1888 262,054.24 May, 1889 357,184.07 Dec. 1889 282,425.21 May, 1890 281,255.20 Dec. 1890 305,094.97 May, 1891 236,555.37 Dec. 1891 274,558.35 May, 1892 319,283.67 Dec. 1892 358,126.43 May, 1893 352,184.07 Dec. 1893 309,408.78 May, 1894 304,189.97 Dec. 1894 215,069.02 May, 1895 256,996.42 Dec. 1895 216,336.33 May, 1896 260,410.12 Dec. 1896 231,958.30 Grand total \$5,874,162.87 Average 279,722.84 Average per year 559,444.70

Apportionments of the temporary school fund under fusion administration. May, 1897 \$362,226.03 Dec. 1897 377,363.99 May, 1898 430,695.98 Dec. 1898 300,816.63 May, 1899 332,111.10 Dec. 1899 292,883.59 May, 1900 400,321.99 Grand total \$2,496,421.27 Average 356,631.21 Average per year 713,262.22

It will be noted that the average under fusion administration is \$153,819.14 per year more than under republican rule. The following table shows the principal items which made up 21 school apportionments under republican state administration: Items in 21 apportionments made under republican administration, from December, 1886, to December, 1896, inclusive. State tax \$1,467,846.82 Interest on school lands sold 2,122,250.72 Interest on school lands leased 927,456.86 Interest on investment 1,387,430.27 Miscellaneous 16,398.27 Total \$5,921,443.36 Less deductions, (a) 47,280.49 Net amount \$5,874,162.87 (a) Premiums on county bonds purchased, paid out of temporary school fund, \$17,655.91; tied up in suspended banks, \$29,624.58.

And the following tables show the principal items which made up the seven apportionments under fusion administration: State School Tax. May, 1897 \$77,829.32 Dec. 1897 79,513.67 May, 1898 83,579.09 Dec. 1898 100,233.63 May, 1899 79,757.10 Dec. 1899 74,833.72 May, 1900 87,241.76 Total \$558,813.14 Average 79,759.02

Interest on School Lands Sold. May, 1897 \$151,806.05 Dec. 1897 146,239.20 May, 1898 200,903.29 Dec. 1898 100,233.63 May, 1899 128,877.30 Dec. 1899 68,017.08 May, 1900 159,705.76 Total \$955,782.43 Average 136,540.34

The following tables speak for themselves: An Average Apportionment under republican administration. State tax \$69,897.47 Interest on school lands sold 101,059.56 Interest on school lands leased 44,164.61 Interest on investment 66,070.98 Total \$281,192.62 Less net deductions 1,470.58 \$279,722.04

An Average School Apportionment under Fusion State Administration. State tax \$79,759.02 Interest on school lands sold 136,540.34 Interest on school lands leased 50,996.88 Interest on investment 86,010.90 Miscellaneous 3,324.47 \$356,631.61

It will be noted that under fusion administration the larger apportionments are made up of: State tax \$9,861.55 Interest on school lands sold 35,480.78 Interest on school lands leased 6,822.27 Interest on investment 19,939.92 Miscellaneous 4,795.05 \$76,909.57

Notwithstanding the fact that during all the period from 1886 to 1896, the temporary fund received \$26,101.38 annually as interest on state bonds at 8 per cent, and that many county bonds drew from 5 to ten per cent per annum; and the further fact that many counties since 1897 have refunded their high interest bearing bonds at a lower rate in some as low as 3 1/2 per cent and that the state bonds will be fully paid off this month; yet the fusion board of educational lands and funds and the state treasurer, working harmoniously together for the states welfare, have raised the average annual income, by increased investments, from \$132,000 per annum to \$172,000, a gain of \$40,000 per year.

The good work of the fusion commissioner of public lands and buildings is seen in the increased income from school lands. Interest on deferred payments of school lands under contract of sale has increased over \$7,000 per year, notwithstanding the fact that on November 30, 1898, there were 326,000 acres less under contract than the average each year from 1886 to 1896. Interest of school lands under contract of lease has increased nearly \$13,000 per year, although the acreage under lease on November 30, 1898, was 10,000 acres less than the average each year from 1886 to 1896.

The following table shows the acreage under contracts of sale and lease at the end of each biennial period from 1886 to 1898: Nov. 30. Lease acres. Sale acres. 1886 912,147 23 498,945 68 1888 1,360,233 46 563,322 42 1890 1,436,304 19 553,873 65 1892 1,462,707 97 573,389 23 1894 1,538,564 94 582,753 72 1896 1,587,591 52 590,758 09 1898 1,056,327 62 545,087 88

Upon taking charge of his office in 1897, "Uncle Jake" discovered that many thousand acres were under contract of lease and delinquent for from two to eight years. He made an earnest effort to collect all delinquent lease and sale contract interest; but was obliged to cancel the contracts on about 720,000 acres, on which not a cent could be collected. This was the result of a republican policy of rewarding precinct workers with school land contracts and allowing them to hold the land without payment of any interest except a merely nominal sum paid down at time of making the contract. The state lost probably half a million dollars because of this republican policy.

At the present time there is very little delinquent interest on these contracts, thanks to Uncle Jake's energy in collecting, and none of long standing. The school children of Nebraska, and the taxpayers as well, have good reason to appreciate the business-like administration of state affairs since 1897. That additional \$153,000 per year will pay the salaries of a good many additional teachers.

The New York Journal is a courageous fighter. It started a war on the ice trust in that city. The republican papers pointed out that the trust was composed of the democratic mayor, Van Wyck, John F. Carroll, the leader of Tammany in the absence of Croker, J. Sargeant Cram, president of the dock board and a lot more of leading democrats of the gold bug persuasion. The Journal did flinch when this discovery was made. It printed the names of these gentlemen in great black letters on his editorial page and went for them harder than ever. The fact that these democratic office holders and multi-millionaires belonged to the same party that the Journal upheld, or say that they do, did not make a bit of difference in the fighting. The Journal whipped them in the end. Read our great premium offers on the 8th page of this paper.

UNITED STATES AS A MODEL The revelations of defalcations and corrupt management in the postal department in Cuba is but the beginning of what may be expected if the colonial policy should become finally adopted by this government. If the government itself goes into the business of subduing and conquering weaker governments because there is commercial advantage in that policy it will not be long until individuals in their official acts will become as corrupt as the government itself. If the government can plunder, can absorb an entirely separate government with impunity merely because it is more powerful why should not public officials plunder the different departments of that government with equal safety? Such has been the result in every nation that has attempted the "expansion by force" policy. The consuls, pro-consuls, and colonial governors of Rome, of England, of Spain as a class have been corrupt. The colonies have always been managed by the professional politicians for the professional politicians, and what that sort of government is like is well understood by the people of Nebraska. The people of this state remember the time when Nebraska was governed by politicians for politicians. They remember the scandals, the extravagances, the robberies and the struggle that was necessary to drive the thieves from power. How much greater will that struggle be when the abuses and thieving practices are committed in distant colonies? The administration has called to its assistance in the management of the affairs of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines the most disreputable politicians in the country—the timber that the people at home have rejected. Think of those who have been taken from this state. The class chosen from other states is not any better. What else than defalcations could be expected from such men? Neeley, the postal defaulter, had a history that should have forever precluded his holding any office of public trust. Director Rathbone has charged the government with many thousands of dollars spent in personal extravagance and ostentation. He has twice visited the United States for political purposes at government expense, traveling with his party at public charge. Carelessness and reckless expenditures have marked his conduct throughout. The bills have been approved by the officials in Washington and attention would doubtless never have been directed toward them except for the investigation caused by the greater defalcation. It is time that the people were aroused to the exact condition of things in Washington—to drive the money changers from the temple and install in their place those righteous leaders of the people William Jennings Bryan and Charles A. Towne.

The United States supreme court seems to be improving. After the income tax decision the people were prepared for almost any sort of a decision that would benefit the rich and when the inheritance tax was taken up, they looked for it to be knocked out, but the court decided that it was constitutional and several million of dollars will be turned into the United States treasury from the Vanderbilt, McCormack and other estates that have recently come into the possession of the young brood who never did a day's work or performed any other service to mankind, but count their wealth by the millions.

The nearly \$4,000,000 paid out in Cuba for salaries is for the civil list alone. Not a cent of this is included in the salaries paid out of the United States treasury to army officers. There is another item of \$500,000 for "extraordinary expenses." An examination shows that \$400,000 of this was for salaries also. Serving under a McKinley pro-consul in Cuba is a better paying business than running a Clear Creek gold mine in Colorado. Hurrah for imperialism and a pro-consul in "our colonies!"

NEWS OF THE WEEK The populists, democrats and silver republicans of the first congressional district are assembled in three conventions at Auburn. On the 30th the best Mr. Berge was nominated. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed over the result and all agree that the nomination is an excellent one. Mr. Berge is one of the best campaigners in the state, and notwithstanding the normal republican majority against him is practically assured of his triumph at the polls in November. The leading candidates were G. W. Berge, populist, of Lancaster, Matthew Gering, democrat, of Cass, with complimentary votes for O. S. Moran, of Otoe, Ed. Faloon, of Johnson, C. N. Mayberry, of Pawnee, Geo. A. Abbott, of Richardson, and several others.

Professor A. K. Goudy ex-state superintendent of public instruction is being suggested as the proper man to be placed at the head of the Peru normal school. Professor Goudy is everywhere recognized as a man of ability in the educational world. He has either originated or materially assisted in developing summer normal schools for teachers, county superintendents conventions, district associations of teachers, and was the first to suggest that the flag should float above every school house in the state and was instrumental in putting it there. Mr. Goudy's history in this state is one of constant and widely directed educational ability. As head of the State Normal school the institution would experience an awakening such as the educational interests of the state require.

Monday the Senate refused by a vote of 36 to 21 to admit the representatives of the Boer republic to the floor of the Senate, thus deciding in any manner to extend even the slightest courtesy to the struggling republics of South Africa. No resolutions of sympathy, no courtesies can be extended until president McKinley gives the word it was argued by the republican senators, and that he will never do. What will he do to the people if it must wait for the advice and direction of his Imperial

Hardy's Column McKinley and the Church—The Reason —When They Return—The Best Fruit of our Times—Have We No Honorable Men in Our Party—Queer Farming—Better Farming—Is Justice Dead. Certainly the Methodist general conference now in session, has a right to criticize and censure a living member in public position as well as in private life. A president church member is under the church law as much as any ordinary man. McKinley's wine drinking at banquets is not in harmony with total abstaining Methodism. In itself it is a small matter but as a public example before the world it is a blur on Methodism. His action toward the army canteen or saloon is a more serious matter for it involves the appetite, health and life of our soldier boys. The president is commander-in-chief of our armies in the field and in fort. He could have driven the saloons out of the army as commander-in-chief any time. To stir him up congress ordered him to do it, but one of his secretaries said no, so it has not been done. It now looks as though he will lose more Methodist votes than he will gain saloon votes. One reason that McKinley received so many votes in '96 was we had just had a republican administration under Cleveland and the people did not like it. Now we have had another republican administration under McKinley and the people know what republicanism is and they