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Mention the Nebraska Independent When Writing

WOOL AND SHEEP.

Senator Shoup, of Idaho, is thus quoted in the Chicago Record: "Under the Harrison administration when our wool was protected by the McKinley tariff, Idaho sheep were worth from \$2.25 to \$2.50 a head. When Cleveland was inaugurated they began to go down and down, until when the Wilson tariff bill was passed, they were worth \$1.27 a head."

Now that is some more of the "quaker" republican writing. Everyone knows that fall in the price of wool and sheep was the direct result of the passage of the McKinley act, and was foretold by every man who had any sort of knowledge of the effect of tariff legislation. The editor of the Independent then a writer on the World Herald, frequently pointed out what the immediate effect of the McKinley bill would be upon the price of wool which any one can see by looking over the files of that paper. The prospect of such a tremendous tariff on wool induced the importation of enough wool in advance of its enactment to last the people of the United States for three years and down went the prices. Grover Cleveland had no more to do with the fall in the price of wool and sheep than the man in the moon. The McKinley bill was in force for nearly eighteen months after his election and that was what was the matter with wool and sheep. It is queer isn't it, that the effect of the McKinley bill should be ascribed to that old political scoundrel, Grover Cleveland? But that is what Senator Shoup does.

Will the State Journal in the coming campaign once more rely on the cow called Speck, the bear black pig, the rooster, lay on the capitol grounds, and omelette to pull them through? Three times they have tried those things and failed. But there is no telling what a mule head will do.

Great indignation is expressed all over the east at McKinley's carpet bag thieves in Cuba. But these Cuban republican thieves can't hold a candle to the genuine republican thieves of Nebraska. Neeley stole, so they say, about \$400,000. Bartley and his chums got away with nearly a million. If you want the genuine, dyed in the wool republican thief, you must come to Nebraska.

An old populist handed the Independent a scrap book in which the owner had preserved much of the abuse, slang, foul names, slanders, billingsgate and insinuations concerning Bryan which

have appeared in the State Journal and Bee during the last three or four years. He remarked: "Take into consideration the standing that Bryan has among the scholars, thinkers, writers, and statesmen of the whole world, and then reflect that two scurvy sheets located in his own state, wrote and printed such things about him! Does it not show the character of the men who run them better than anything else?"

"Hitch your wagon to a star," is a metaphor which some one wrote down under "a fine poetic frenzy." It seems to be the motto of some men in politics. They want to make a platform and insist on a policy as far away from the comprehension of the people as the stars are from the earth, and then hitch their political fortunes to it and wait for it to pull them along. Now the every day old pop don't believe in that at all. He would rather hitch his wagon to a pair of long eared mules that he knows can do some pulling than to waste his life trying to rope a star to which he might attach it.

The nation that does not rule in righteousness shall perish from the face of the earth. That is a law as inexorable as any other law of nature. All history bears testimony to the truthfulness of the statement. Every nation violating the law of righteousness has perished. Their crowns and their glory and their armies and their office holders, robed in scarlet and purple, have all perished. Not only that, the people they ruled perished. Others have inherited their lands. McKinley may think that he, by the aid of Mark Hanna, can escape the penalty for the violation of this law. But Mark Hanna did not enact it and he cannot repeal it.

The "quakerism" of republican editorials is not confined to the rural press by any means. Now here is the St. Louis Globe-Democrat which remarks: "Of course most of the populists are likely to vote for Barker instead of Bryan. True, Bryan is himself a populist rather than a democrat. The ticket which was nominated at Cincinnati last week, and not the one at Sioux Falls, will receive the bulk of the vote of the populist party." To call that sort of editorial writing "quaker" is to put it mild. It could be more correctly named partisan lunacy. Yet it appears in one of the great republican dailies. Of course it was not written for the benefit of reasonable men, but for mule head consumption.

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VALUATION; EARNINGS V TAXATION
What is the true value of Nebraska railroads? Edgar Howard says: \$250,000,000. He evidently obtained his figures from the twelfth annual report of the Nebraska Board of Transportation, (1898) table XI, in which it is shown that the cost of 5,542.7 miles of Nebraska roads, in bonds, stocks and other evidences of indebtedness was, to January 30, 1898, \$253,771,665.19, or an average of \$45,786.74 per mile. These figures are made from reports of the railroad managers to the board.

The board, commenting on this method of determining the value, says: "Railroads are usually built on credit. Mortgage bonds are issued and sold often at a large discount to raise money to pay for construction. Stock is issued and disposed of in similar manner to purchase equipments. Hence, the amount of bonds and stock issued and sold bears no very definite relation to the cost of construction."

In reply to an inquiry sent out by the board to each Nebraska railroad, the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific railway company furnished a table showing that its line in Nebraska cost for construction and equipment all told \$6,160,194.13, or \$25,064.24 per mile. It must be conceded that this road is a fair average Nebraska railroad. Hence, all the roads do not exceed in value about \$140,000,000, and the assessment of 1900 is nearly 19 per cent of the true value instead of 10 as the Holt County Independent avers.

It should not be forgotten that the question of what is the true value of Nebraska railroads is one which affects the matter of what constitute fair freight and passenger rates.

The populist party has always contended that the railroads have placed a fictitious valuation upon their property in order to justify high freight rates. It has denied that Nebraska railroads are worth \$45,000 per mile, but said that they are not worth to exceed \$25,000 per mile on the average. And that the roads should charge for freight on about that valuation.

Consistency is a rare jewel. It will hardly do for the populist party to say that the roads are worth \$45,000, to \$50,000 per mile for purposes of taxation, but that they are worth not to exceed \$25,000 a mile for purposes of charging freight and passenger rates. The Independent believes in making the railroads pay taxes upon as high a valuation as can be made in accordance with justice. But it believes in investigating before indulging in explosions against the board. And it further believes in making demands consistent in everything. The railroads are undoubtedly assessed at very nearly one-sixth of their true value. And a general average of all other property will probably show that it is assessed at about one-seventh or one eighth of true value.

The amount of money credited to interest on state warrants held by the school fund, contained in the last apportionment, does not indicate that the investment is of abnormal proportions. If the \$200,000 which has been lying idle and uninvested in the banks had been thus invested the report would show several times the \$2,847.18 which is now credited to this source of revenue. The large amount of money which the treasurer is enabled to distribute, as shown by his own statement, is not due to any good management on the part of himself or other state officers, but to the fact that better times have enabled those who lease or have purchased school lands to pay what they owe.—Omaha Bee.

The ignorance displayed by the Bee is monumental. State general fund warrants run from eighteen to twenty months after registration before being called for payment. When called for payment, principal and interest are paid. No interest is ever paid on a state warrant until the warrant is called and paid in full. But the Bee seemingly doesn't understand such matters.

On the first day of May the permanent school fund held as an investment \$876,405.11 in state warrants. The major portion of these were purchased since March 1, 1899, and will not be called for payment for a number of months yet. Upon this \$876,405.11 of warrants over \$40,000 has already accrued, yet not a cent of it was available for the May apportionment because interest on state warrants is never paid until the principal is paid.

At the time the Douglas county bonds were purchased, and for some time after, there was only \$8,000 uninvested in all the educational funds and the purchase of state warrants for a time was very light or stopped altogether. The \$2,847.18 in interest, which worries the Bee so much, is interest on the last of a large amount of warrants which had been purchased prior to the Douglas county bond purchase and which were called for payments only a few months ago.

pointed by the British crown, and we had not one word to say who they should be, how long they should hold office or what salaries they should tax out of us. That is just the condition of affairs in Cuba and Porto Rico. That is imperialism. The result is now, always has been and always will be corruption.

Our old friend Donnelly is in a peck of trouble again. Wharton Barker gave out an interview in which he said:

"The fight this year will be on other questions than money. For the time being that is put aside. Transportation, expansion, and other live questions will make up the issues."

That sort of talk didn't suit Donnelly at all. He first declares that he don't believe that Barker ever said it, but if he did then Barker must get off the platform. The first thing that any one knows Donnelly will be after that Philadelphia banker with a hot iron and if he does, he will singe all the hide from him.

The Independent points to its lists of souvenir premiums for clubs of new subscriptions. Hundreds have taken advantage of the premium watch offer and of the Bryan picture and book propositions. While there is no immediate profit in these transactions we are more than pleased to send them out as each represents an increase in circulation and serves as a valuable advertisement. Each one sent adds others. We have added to the list some excellent summer goods, hammocks, croquet sets, fans etc. Read the terms in the ad on another page.

The State Journal declares that the act of congress hurried through with all expedition, providing for the extradition of Neeley, and the great republican blow-out in Indiana to celebrate the action of Governor Mount in refusing to honor a requisition from the governor of Kentucky for accomplices in the murder of Goebel, "are consistent and perfectly logical." Every one has long known that a "quakerism" had lodged in the noddles of the men who write Journal editorials, so that statement caused no surprise.

Mr. Rockefeller is going to raise the price of gas in New York city on the first of June from 65 cents to \$1.00 a thousand. The mule headed citizens of that place will curse and swear when the bills come and then go down in their pockets and pay Mr. Rockefeller \$1.00 for what costs him less than 30 cents. It will never enter into their muddled brains that they could go to the polls and cast a vote that would result in the municipal ownership of gas, after which they would get it at 30 cents a thousand instead of the \$1.00 which they will have to pay. "What fools these mortals be!"

Wharton Barker seems to be somewhat uneasy over the fact that his convention took no action about a party name. Of course he can't run for president in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, or any of the western states where there are populists, of the people party ticket. In some of these this oversight will have to be remedied. The Independent suggests that the best way for them to get out of the muddle is to call themselves "The Barkers." The prolonged howling that occurred at their convention shows that they would make very good barkers also.

President McKinley, just awaking in the morning—"Valet, run over for secretary of war, quick."

After a few minutes the valet returns and reports that the secretary of war is in the outer room.

President McKinley—"Root! O, Root! Is the Island of Cuba still in the old place?"

Sec. Root—"Yes, your honor."

Pres. Mc.—"That is all. I was afraid that some of our friends whom we have sent down there might have stolen it during the night. There's nothing more at present. I will finish out my nap."

The State Journal has made, it thinks, a very important and entirely new discovery. It says Neely was induced to rob and steal at the rate of \$10,000 a month because the democratic papers denounced imperialism and called the McKinley carpet baggers in Cuba pro consuls. It says that Neely read these editorials and concluded that he was really a Roman pro consul. The conclusion is that it is the democratic editors who are to blame for the stealing in Cuba, and that Neely is an innocent lamb who was deceived by these ungodly men. Every partisan lunatic who reads the State Journal, now honestly believes that the democratic editors ought to go to the penitentiary and Neely be set free.

Uncle Tim Sedgwick of the York Times takes a hand in the discussion of the railroad assessment of 1900, and brings out the fact that the assessment of York county lands has been raised 20 per cent in 1900 by agreement of the assessors, although, Mr. Sedgwick says, "it is still only about 10 per cent of the value." He, like all partisan republicans, keeps repeating the misstatement that the railroad assessment has been lowered by the fusion board, when in fact it has been raised over \$810,000 since 1896.

and unimproved lands at \$1.52. Hence, the 30 per cent raise will amount to only 71 cents per acre on improved lands and 30 cents on unimproved.

Rome, while yet a republic, started on the road of imperialism. A man by the name of Gibbon wrote a book entitled, "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." We commend that book to the American people. Mark Hanna and McKinley have started this nation on the same road. In the next century some one will write a book, if this policy is followed out, entitled, "The Decline and Fall of the Great American Republic." Senator Hoar says that the author will date the beginning of the decline from the inauguration of Wm. McKinley. But Senator Hoar says he will support Wm. McKinley for re-election to the presidency, so if this wreck is to be avoided, some one else besides Senator Hoar must be looked to to save the republic.

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The best thing done the last week in the political line, was the nomination of Gen. Borge for congressman in the first district. The democrats have had two chances and it is but fair that a pop should be put on the track this time. Certainly no better man lives in the district. Most assuredly he will prove more than a match for Burkett.

All things work together for good, to those who stand up for justice. Every man thing done by the republicans helps Bryan. The republican thieves in Cuba are doing the very best things they possibly can to elect Bryan and it is so all along the line. It is much harder to defend an old rotten administration than it is to defend a new one yet to come.

It is a shame that Ike Lansing was not appointed to that judgeship in Cuba and Porto Rico for he most fully represents the republican party in Bryan's state. The other representatives who have already gone there are the best excepting Ike.

If the law compels me to pay you fifty per cent above European prices for your cloth, ought not the law to compel you to pay me fifty per cent above European prices for my wheat? Is it not justice that the law should help the farmer as much as the factory man?

The Supreme Court has decided that the inheritance tax is constitutional and that a title to inherited property cannot be completed until the tax is paid. No inheritance less than ten thousand is taxed, and the tax commences with three quarters of one per cent and goes as high as fifteen per cent. Why the inheritance tax should be constitutional and the income tax not, is hard to see. The government of England levies both taxes and collects over \$150,000,000 annually. We are glad that we have a government tax that makes the rich pay more than the poor. It must be that the judges have heard from the people and their leader Bryan, or they would have killed this tax as they did the income tax.

The days are now about an hour longer in Lincoln than they are in Galveston and they are about an hour longer in Winnipeg than they are in Lincoln.

If resigned Senator Clark of Montana was the only senator now in Congress who used money in his election, it would be a very different thing. It is the general opinion that nearly all who hold the office of senator used piles of money around and in the legislatures that elected them.

The McKinley party seem much elated over the action of the middle of the road pop party, but their following is so small that their votes will be counted as scattering. They may have a dozen or two votes in Nebraska and Kansas and some of them were for McKinley four years ago, but there will not be enough to effect anything. Bryan will have from twenty to thirty thousand majority in each of these states. There is not a state south of Ohio that they can trouble in the least and everything east is counted for McKinley any way.

John L. Webster, first pet of Rosewater, uttered two solid truths in a speech the other day. One was that the McKinley party was a "build-up" party and the other was that the Bryan party was a "tear-down" party. It is a fact that McKinley has built up more millionaires and trusts than any president before him, but it has been done at the expense of the common people. While Bryan is opposed to this kind of building he is opposed to special laws enacted for their special help. Bryan would stop this kind of building and tear down many of these buildings down.

We were asked the other day why Bryan is called the "common peoples' man." There are several reasons for that. Not one out of a hundred of the forty-two thousand millionaires in the United States sympathizes with Bryan or his doctrine, the other ninety-nine are for McKinley. The trusts and corporations are all for McKinley. The aristocrats and fine-haired gentry nearly all live in Ohio and east of there, and those states all went for McKinley. At the same time Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota had a close run, but the other agricultural states west and south,

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supported Bryan. The cities are more for McKinley and the country more for Bryan. The "upper ten" and aristocrats nearly all live in cities while the farmers are nearly all industrious common people. It is not strange at all, that the stuck-up city chaps who never touch a plow handle, should go for a stuck-up president like McKinley. Birds of a feather flock together.

It does seem almost out of the question for the government to own, control and run all the railroads but we can adopt the English system of controlling them. First find out the amount of actual money invested, then limit the dividend to six or eight per cent annually. Whenever it exceeds that, cut down the charges and when it falls below, raise them. Appoint inspectors to look at and inspect the management. This can be done with little cost. All corporations are creatures of law and subjected to law. It is very different with individual private business. We can at once adopt the law of control and then gradually run into full ownership. This trust business that is so general now is sure to hasten government ownership of all public monopolies. But trusts are worse than corporations. They double prices at a jump and then halve them so that supply and demand in no way control the market. Some how every body else is trying to work games except farmers. Take the labor fellow, those who have not brains enough to set themselves to work, they are on to it. If the government runs these public utilities, where would the strikers and destruction of property come in. These trusts and labor organizations are very unpopular among farmers and it will not be wise to salt our state ticket this fall, with either.

Siberia is bound to be the home of millions of emigrants during the next twenty years. The Chinese, Japanese and East India people are flocking in there already by the thousands. The intellectual and patriotic cream of the Russian Empire are already there in the persons of political prisoners. European emigrants are fast turning their faces that way. The climate of the southern portion very much resembles that of northern United States. It was not criminals that were imprisoned there, but such men as Wendell Phillips, Garrison, Lincoln and Bryan, for talking reform. They have made settlements and have been living happily in a world by themselves. The three thousand miles of Russian railroads stretching across the country, through valleys and over mountains from Moscow to the Yellow Sea and Pacific Ocean, open up an inhabitable country the size of that opened up by the Union Pacific rail road. The people of India prefer the Russian government to starvation under the English. There is one thing creditable in the Russian government policy, she is not fishing all over the world for other people to rule. The straits of Constantinople should be hers for they are her front door. The railroad will make her back door of more use.

It is a little interesting to review the improvements made in the instruments used in sending stones, arrows and bullets. Slings for sending stones were probably the first improvement upon the hand throwing. We read of the

marksman becoming very proficient, so much so that they could sling a stone to a hair's breadth and not miss. David was probably one of the best sharpshooters of his day. His sling and pouch of smooth stones were his only defence against wild animals. It was undoubtedly with the sling that he killed the lion and the bear, as they came to feed upon the sheep and lambs he tended. He had confidence in his own marksmanship and knew he could send a center shot and not miss, which he did into the pate of Goliath. The next improvement was undoubtedly the bow and arrow. They had thrown stones and spears with the bare hand and after the sling for throwing stones naturally followed the bow for sending small spears; This was so much more deadly that the sling went out of use. Clubs, swords and spears may have been used for ages before the sling and bow were invented. It was only about three hundred years ago that a Chinaman discovered the chemical combination of gun powder, after which followed the gun. The first guns were fired by match lock which was nothing more or less than touching the gun off with a little burning brand of fire. The cannon during the revolutionary war were fired by means of a hot iron, but the guns were supplied with a flint lock. The flint scraped off a shaving of iron so quickly that it was yet red hot and ignited the powder. Next followed the cartridge and breech loading gun which are generally used today the world over. What the next improvement will be is hard to tell.

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.

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.

See list of premiums and full particulars in article entitled "Premiums for everybody" ON PAGE 3.

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