

The Nebraska Independent

Lincoln, Nebraska

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The last republican congress created 2,270 new offices and increased the salaries of 479 old offices involving an increase in salaries of \$5,234,683. That does not include the commissions appointed by McKinley whose salaries and expenses amount to some millions more. Plant some more corn and help pay the bill.

It is announced that the Porto Rican case which was to decide whether the constitution follows the flag or not has, on the motion of the trust attorney general, been postponed until January 7. By that time it is expected that congress having assembled, the thing can be so fixed as to suit the ideal of imperialism.

Isn't it about time that the great dailies let up on the pictures illustrating the manner in which the Chinese behead their criminals and let their artists try their hands at a few diagrams showing how the Christian soldiers loot cities, shoot down non-combatants and assault women? Too much of one kind of pictures has a tendency to weariness.

The enacting clause of every law promulgated in the Philippines reads as follows: "By the authority of the president of the United States it is ordered, etc." The republicans continue to declare that imperialism is a bogey. If there is greater imperial authority than that, please tell where it resides. Laws enacted by the will of one man without any one's consent. If it isn't imperialism, what is it?

John J. Lentz, who is respected by all populists for his manly fight against military government in Idaho, was defeated by 14 votes. His district has always been a close one. The republicans were exceedingly anxious to defeat him and Hanna, Dick and others of like ilk poured money into his district just as the national committee did into Nebraska to defeat Bryan.

There was a suit up for trial in one of the Omaha courts the other day that has been in court over twenty years. It concerns the title to some land in one of the additions to that city. It is a shame that this is possible in a civilized country. During the pendency of the case, Joseph Baker, the original plaintiff, half a dozen of the defendants and a number of the lawyers have died, but still the case goes on and on.

Treasurer Roberts reports that 39 per cent of our money is gold, or a little over a third. The other two-thirds is silver and paper. Because any kind of legal tender money remains at par with gold, he calls that the gold standard. All the money now issued, including bank notes, is legal tender to some degree. When they started out, they undertook to make gold the only legal tender in this country. They have utterly failed and have abandoned the project. They have discovered a better scheme. Organize the trusts, control production and fix prices. There is a good deal more in that than there was in stopping the coinage of silver.

A mullet head is the easiest creature to fool on earth. They all believe that the current rate of interest on government bonds is lower in this country than in any other country on earth. They say that the government 2 per cent bonds are at a premium of 6 per cent. That is, if a person bought a government bond, he would have to wait three years before he got any interest and after that, get only 2 per cent. Times must be dreadful and all enterprise dead when a man could not do better with money than that. What is the truth about the matter? The man who gets government bonds to the value of \$25,000 can organize a bank and take his bonds down to Washington and get all his money back. Then he gets his 2 per cent on his bonds and can loan his money over again. The people pay the interest on that second lot of money just as well as upon the bonds. Money is not being loaned at less than 2 per cent in the United States to the government or to any one else for 2 per cent.

HORRORS OF EMPIRE

The world would stand aghast if the simple truth of the horrors of the present wars for empire were made known to the people. But the military censorship established by the different powers see to it that the people shall not know. Of these censorships, that established by William McKinley, as testified to by the experienced correspondents of all nations, is the most severe. The "round robin" signed by the correspondents of all nations and sent from an outside station concerning the war of empire in the Philippines is sufficient proof. In all history whenever an invading army has attacked another and different race, rapine, murder of the innocent, assaults upon defenseless women, has overwhelmed the unhappy country and the corpses of women and children have strewn the land.

The few private letters that have come from the Philippines have told the old, sad story. Officers and men who have returned, will in private admit the truth of them. In China the "Christian" powers are repeating ancient history with additional horrors. The troops of each nation are denounced by writers belonging to other nations. French and English writers tell of the rapine of the Russians. Writers of other nations tell of the crimes and murders committed by the French. The Japanese and English correspondents tell what the American troops did. From among them all, if one has the nerve to read the horrible details, the whole story is told—not in the regular dispatches, for that is forbidden by the censors—but in mail correspondence and private letters. Some of the work of McKinley's troops has appeared in private letters, one of which was printed in The Independent. News from the Philippines contains the statement that when the troops of His Majesty, the president of the United States and emperor of the Philippines, returned to Manila, they were loaded down with the most costly articles, their share of the loot gathered in China, some of which was being disposed of for a song and much of it was being sent to the United States as Christmas presents. Think of that! Stolen goods being sent to the United States as "Christmas" presents! Commemorating the birth of the Savior with relics and costly merchandise gathered from fields of murder and rape! Will any minister of any rich and powerful church in the United States denounce it? Probably not one.

Whether there is a single voice in the degenerate church raised in protestation against these horrors and crimes or not, The Independent will cry aloud and spare not. The crime rests upon the guilty soul of William McKinley. He is commander-in-chief of the American army and navy. An order five lines in length would stop the whole business. The wailing cries of ravished women, the blood of innocent thousands rests upon his guilty soul. An order from him with seventy-six millions of Americans to back it would bring this looting, murder and ravishing to an end, not only in the American army, but in the armies of all of the "Christian" powers.

If there is not another voice in all the land to protest, The Independent will protest. The Christian ministry may be silent. The religious press may not say a word. The secular press may exclude it from comment in their columns, but The Independent will cry out. The blood of innocent women and children shall not rest upon it.

THE FUTURE OF SILVER

Several old friends have written to The Independent asking for an expression in regard to the future of silver. In answer to all, it may be said that the effort of the money power to stop the coinage of silver has been a complete failure. More silver is being coined today than heretofore and still more yet would be coined if more were produced. Under the administration of McKinley, which came into power under the promise to stop the coinage of silver, more has been coined than was ever coined either under the Bland act or the Sherman act in the same length of time.

Since the beginning of the year the Indian government has shipped \$1,500,000 in gold to London. The average price of silver last month in London was 29.58 pence per ounce fine, compared with 26.70 pence in October, 1899, and 27.90 pence in October, 1898. Shipments of silver from London to India for ten months since January 1, 1900, are reported at \$5,310,307, against \$4,509,525 in the same portion of 1899. The gain reads \$800,782 or \$4,003,910.

The effort to force a gold currency upon the people of India has been abandoned. Gold shipped there for that purpose has been returned and silver has been sent back in place of it. Three-fourths of the population of the world use silver for money, not only as subsidiary coin, but for

all their business transactions. The other fourth uses as much silver as gold and as long as any nation uses metallic money, silver must of necessity furnish a great part of the currency.

The basis of business is such that it will be an impossibility for ages yet to come to stop the coinage of silver in the Asiatic world. The transactions are so small, that of necessity silver and copper must be used. As long as gold is used for money, just that long will silver be used. The attempt to stop the coinage of silver was Quixotic. The result was a temporary disturbance of all values, the bankruptcy of hundreds of thousands and suicides, insane and criminals without number.

The attempt has been abandoned—there is not a financier in the whole world who does not know that it has been abandoned. All the silver that is mined, except what necessarily goes into the arts, is coined. All that is mined will continue to be coined. Notwithstanding the triumphant election of McKinley and "the permanent establishment of the gold standard," silver remains in the market eight cents per ounce higher than it was three years ago. The great cry raised in the east against the "threat of free silver" was a fake, pure and simple. It was not raised in the hope of stopping the coinage of silver, but for another purpose altogether. The money power had gathered in all that could be gathered by the "crime of '73" and was laying plans for the further spoliation of the people. To accomplish its purpose it was necessary to re-elect McKinley and keep Mark Hanna in control of the policies of the government. It was preparing to monopolize all the industries and to take from labor all the profits of production through the organization of the trusts. To do that, the manipulators of the finances of the world were willing to invest millions in the republican campaign, with a certainty that if they won, it would be returned to them many times over.

The stoppage of the coinage of silver cannot be effected by the "powers" even if they all work in harmony. The millions of brown people will continue to use silver as primary money and the other millions of white people will continue to use it as subsidiary, and also as standard money to some extent. More than \$600,000,000 of the standard money of the United States at the present time is silver. Any attempt to make it redeemable on demand in gold would produce a panic such as the world never saw. Yet the mullet heads continue to firmly believe that "the gold standard is firmly established."

BLACKLISTED

The following appeared in the State Journal as a special dispatch from Washington:

"There is no question that the republican victory is a great thing for Nebraska. The state had been blacklisted and reviled by eastern people for four years or more, and was pointed out as a place where the investment of capital was unsafe, where enterprises were not wanted, and where the courts were ruled by mobs."

Any newspaper man would know at a glance that the dispatch was a fake and written in the State Journal office. It is referred to because it announces that a state that does not vote the republican ticket will be blacklisted by the eastern plutocrats and slandered to the limit of the ability of these same trust, corporation and bank magnates to lie. Nebraska, they have been telling the people down there, is a state where "the courts are ruled by mobs!" This cowardly degenerate in the State Journal office instead of representing such a villainous lie about the state, prints it and gloats over the fact that the people of the state have been represented as a set of barbarians who mobbed the courts.

There is an old saying that it is a nasty bird that fouls its own nest, but there is no proverb describing the foulness of the degenerate who so vilifies his own state and people. That is the sort of men and the character of the journalism that will be dominant in Nebraska for the next two years.

Mr. Harold Martin, correspondent of the Associated Press in the Philippines, in an article printed in a New York paper says:

"No matter how the question is considered at home, the retention of these islands is today unpopular with the majority of individual Americans who must live out here. They put up with the Philippines as an unpleasant feature of their duty, hoping the while for speedy relief."

While the article is conservatively written, it really depicts in the darkest colors the incompetence and dishonesty of the government maintained since the military occupation. He relates how one officer who protested against the shutting up of all the distilleries except one, and that one allowed to run night and day to supply the trade, making immense profits, was removed from office and sent back to the United States. He says that the enormous tariff taxes imposed by the Spanish have been maintained and no one knows what has become of the money.

PROFOUND IGNORANCE

It is hardly possible that the voters of Nebraska would have repudiated a state administration that had paid off in four years all the bonded debt, made provisions for the full payment of all the floating debt in the next eighteen months, had reduced the cost of maintaining every public institution and doubled the disbursements to common schools in the short term of four years, if they had full information upon the subject. That many thousands who voted the republican ticket did so for want of information cannot be doubted, unless we come to the conclusion that men will vote knowingly against their own interests.

A few days after the election some students of the university remarked to the editor of The Independent that many of the students voted against Bryan because, when he was ordered to Cuba by the president he refused to go and resigned. At first he thought they were joking, but upon further inquiry was convinced that they honestly believed the statement to be true. Now students of a university, especially those old enough to vote, are expected to be above the average in intelligence, and if they believed such a story as that, what could be expected from the average working farmer and farm hand?

Further investigation showed that this story had been circulated in the republican country newspapers and other documents by the hundreds of thousands. Those who read it, believed it and voted accordingly.

About a year ago the State Journal printed a story to the effect that nearly a hundred populist county treasurers were defaulters. That received the same treatment at the hands of the republican managers that the one about Bryan did. It was copied many hundred thousands of times and was put into the hands of every republican and doubtful voter in the state. These voters honestly believed that the populists had inaugurated a very saturnalia of corruption all over the state and voted accordingly that the other day, and he was perfectly honest and sincere, that while Meserve had made a possible state treasurer, the unparalleled rascality of the populist county treasurers had made it necessary for the people to down him with the rest of them. Meserve's misfortune was that he belonged to a class of disreputable gang, none of whom he had undertaken to punish.

The republicans push their papers into every household that will receive them. They go week after week loaded down with such statements as the above and the people are deceived and misinformed. If it were not for that policy they would not have a handful of voters in this state. Their country papers have been furnished with free patent insides, free plate matter and many of their largest weeklies have been sent out at a price of less than half the cost of publication. The Independent knows whereof it speaks, for these same offers have been made to it—one came last week.

The republicans do this from year to year by means of the great campaign funds received from the trusts and those operating under special privileges. It is not done only during the campaign, but all the time. They know that in that lies their only hope of success. By these immense sums they have been able to hold the great dailies, the religious press, the agricultural press and the weekly press by a very great majority to their support. To further prevent the voters from gaining information, they have refused to engage in joint discussion and as far as possible prevented their voters from hearing the public speakers on the other side. By this means they have kept the people in profound ignorance and by that ignorance controlled their votes.

There is but one way to offset this policy. It is to get our papers into the hands of the people. Many thousands of those who voted the fusion ticket take only republican papers, but they have intelligence enough to see the fraud and falsity of them, but it is not so with all. Let our people take hold of this matter now and not wait until another campaign is on. The work that a good populist paper can do now is ten times greater than during a campaign. Papers sent to subscribers during a campaign are looked upon as campaign documents, but sent now, when the long winter evenings give time for reading and partisan passion has subsided, the facts and arguments they contain will bear abundant fruit to aid you in this work. The Independent offers good premiums and a clubbing list that is unsurpassed. The only hope that is left for reform lies in the extension of the circulation of honest, truthful literature among the people. Who will take up the work now when it will be the most effective?

PRACTICAL POLITICAL WORK

We should learn something from our enemies. With the protected interests the campaign is always on. Their publication mills send out tons of matter the year round. They never stop to take breath. The American Economist, elated with recent success, is telling its readers how they got ac-

tively at work for the 1900 campaign in 1898. They sent out questions to 400,000 manufacturers (think of the money it cost) and asked them to report how many more men they employed than they did two years previous to that, and how much they had raised wages. The manufacturers reported they had employed 44 per cent more men and had raised wages 11½ per cent. All on account of the tariff. From that time on they kept things hot printing and circulating these documents. Millions of them were sent out. Every mullet head who received one swore by it and believed the statement more firmly than he did holy writ. All this time, what were the supporters of Bryan doing? Nothing at all. They left everything to be done during the heat of a campaign. We "don't want to do that way no more." Go to work now. Practical political work is the only thing that wins. Appeals to high ideals are useless in this commercial age.

GIVING AWAY FRANCHISES

As long as a presidential election can be bought with money, there will be no hope that the people will enjoy any of the blessings that are freely conferred upon the subjects of the monarchs and autocrats of the old world. There is not an economist or historian in the whole world who will not say, that both history and economics teach that a government by the rich always has been and always will be the very worst possible form of government that can be instituted among mankind.

Franchises worth millions are constantly given away in this country—presented made by the common people to those who are already rich. The czar of Russia gives away franchises, but after a fashion that would throw any party in power out of office that dared to do it in this country. The rich would simply go out and buy enough votes at the next election to drive such a party from power. When the party was out, the mullet heads would assemble and hold a great ratification meeting over the triumph that the rich had gained. A cablegram from St. Petersburg tells how the czar gives away telephone franchises. It says:

"The government has prescribed the condition of rentals and the franchises were given to the parties fixing the lowest subscription. The St. Petersburg municipality won here, agreeing to demand 45 rubles (\$34.65) annually, compared with 250 rubles (\$192.50) hitherto charged. The Western Electric company of the United States bid unsuccessfully everywhere."

"The subscriptions are: Odessa, 48 rubles; Riga, 57 rubles; Warsaw, 69 rubles, and Moscow, 79 rubles."

(A ruble is equivalent to about 77 cents in our money.) What would become of a party in this country that would advocate giving franchises to railroads, telegraph and telephone lines to those agreeing to charge the lowest rates? There wouldn't be enough left of it to gather up the pieces after the first election. A government by the rich never would allow such a thing to be done. If you want anything like that you will have to go to a monarchy or an autocracy to get it, or wait until several hundred thousand mullet heads who have the right to vote are dead and buried.

TIED OF THEIR JOB

It is stated in the Washington telegrams that Generals MacArthur, Bates and Grant, serving in the Philippines, have each asked to be relieved of their commands and allowed to return to the United States. The reason assigned for their request is that they have had long and hard service in a tropical climate and are entitled to a rest and a chance to recuperate. That is the official reason, but if there was any honor or glory in fighting the Filipinos, or any signs of success were evident, there would be no such request sent to the Emperor of the Philippines at Washington. Any man who knows the motives that govern military men knows that to be the case.

During all the long contest, the assertions of those who have opposed the policy of imperialism, have told the American people the truth about this Philippine business. It will take at least 100,000 thousand men to establish the semblance of American authority in those islands and it will take a standing army of nearly that size to maintain what we already have. That 100,000 men will have to be renewed every two years and those who come back will be for the most part broken in health and ruined for the remainder of their lives. That is what this venture in imperialism will cost us in men. What it will cost in money no man can tell. What it will cost in honor and tarnishing our reputation as lovers of liberty makes one blush as he thinks of it.

THAT ICE TRUST

Theodore Roosevelt has at last given the quietus to the republican campaign cry of "ice trust." He has dismissed the case. From Maine to California the mullet heads yelled "ice trust" at every political meeting and those same dolts will continue to be-

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lieve that the democrats organized and had in operation the most villainous and destructive trust that ever held sway in the United States. They will never know any different, for the republican press will not say a word on the subject and when the next campaign begins those same chaps, who will all the time have been paying a cent a pound more for their meat and a hundred per cent more for their salt with other things in proportion that the trusts control, will be around shouting "ice trust." Such is the intelligence of the hordes who vote the republican ticket. The next day after the rise in the price of meat a republican who runs a meat market in Lincoln was solemnly declaring that there was no such thing as a meat trust. He said he was in the meat business and he knew what he was talking about. It is by the votes of those who are ignorant of the most common things that we have a government by the rich.

SUGAR BOUNTIES

The populists from principle as well as from an economic standpoint have always opposed sugar bounties. The policy never had an inch of economic ground to stand upon. It was pernicious in every respect. It seems now that the nations of the earth are coming to the same conclusions that the old pop farmers formed the first time their attention was called to the matter. A conference of the various sugar producing nations has been called, the purpose of which is to enter into an agreement to abolish all bounties by all the nations and let the production of sugar rest upon the old economic foundations proclaimed by every work of authority that has ever been published. Germany and the United States have been the chief culprits in this matter. It has at last dawned upon the would-be statesmen that a further pursuance of the policy will end in the utter ruin of the industry. Many sugar estates have already become worthless and more will follow, if all the people are taxed to support this one industry. A nation might as well give a bounty on the production of wheat or any other crop as upon sugar. The whole system belongs to the order of false political economy that constantly insists upon special privileges for the few, while the many pay the bills.

News of the Week

The all absorbing thing in Europe this week has been, not the Chinese situation, but the triumphal progress of Oom Paul Kruger through France. It is one of the most remarkable things in history. President Kruger is in appearance and dress only a common peasant, and he comes from a country harried and oppressed by 200,000 British soldiers who are under the command of the most famous generals of modern times, he represents a little army which at no time numbered more than 30,000 men, his capital has been captured, 10,000 of his soldiers are prisoners of the British, but he is not conquered. His is a most pathetic figure. His indomitable courage, his plain and honorable character, his long fight for home and native land, endear him to the hearts of the people of France and he has received an ovation not accorded to any other man in the present century, all along the way from Marseilles to Paris.

In Paris he has been received by President Loubet with the honors usually accorded a sovereign ruler traveling incognito, that is to say not in state. The French republic could do this without violating diplomatic usages or giving England any right to complain of an unfriendly attitude, because France has received no official notice from the English government that the South African republics have been annexed to the British empire. But there may have been another thing influencing the French government. The ship that conveyed Kruger was a day behind. The people of Marseilles gathered at the wharf in uncountable thousands and waited two

days for Kruger to come. They decked the town with garlands and French and Boer flags. All the time it was said that the government of the city would give Kruger no official recognition. The crowds grew and grew and the enthusiasm mounted higher and higher. Finally the mayor concluded for himself, or from instructions sent from Paris that it would be the proper thing to give the old president clothed in peasant clothes and wearing deep mourning an official reception.

While the assemblages to meet Kruger have been enormous everywhere, there have been no disturbances of the peace. At Marseilles some English dudes threw some small coins into the crowd and the people took it as an insult to Kruger. For a few minutes there was a lively time. The police kept order and the "incident" was closed. What the result of Kruger's visit to Europe will be, no man can foretell. It is said that he has a big card up his sleeve which he will play at the right time, consisting of some original documents that will play havoc with certain English statesmen.

There have been reports of three or four fights in the Philippines. In one of which two officers were killed and eleven men wounded. The most important thing about these fights was that one occurred within forty miles of Manila, a fact that goes to show that the jurisdiction of the American government has been extended at least five miles further after two years of fighting. Two years ago, our lines were thirty-five miles from Manila.

The official count of the ballots for president are not yet attainable. The vote of the states so far known show some strange things. In Ohio, where over a million votes were polled, there were the same number cast for Bryan—not one more or one less than in 1896. The same is true of Lancaster county, Nebraska. All the increase in the vote went to McKinley. That increase in Nebraska is the occasion of comment everywhere. The republican press is busy explaining it. Nebraska, which according to the census only increased its population 10,000 in ten years, casts 20,000 more votes than it did in 1896 and they were all counted for McKinley.

News from Washington is still to the effect that a bill creating a large standing army will be hurried through congress, probably before the Christmas vacation. This imperial administration will be in dire distress for troops to maintain its conquests in a very short time, for the terms of enlistment of the present army will soon expire. It seems that men for the navy troubles the imperialists also. The American navy is the most aristocratic in the world. There is no possible chance for an enlisted man in the navy ever to get a commission. If a man once enlists in the navy, that settles his fate for life, he can never be anything but a common sailor, no matter what his ability or courage may be. There are therefore feelers being put out concerning a conscription for men for the navy. How the navy can be increased fourfold without it, is a conundrum that no one seems able to solve. The Independent says, the people having voted for imperialism, a big army what his ability or courage may be. There are therefore feelers being put out concerning a conscription for men for the navy. How the navy can be increased fourfold without it, is a conundrum that no one seems able to solve. The Independent says, the people having voted for imperialism, a big army what his ability or courage may be. There are therefore feelers being put out concerning a conscription for men for the navy. How the navy can be increased fourfold without it, is a conundrum that no one seems able to solve. The Independent says, the people having voted for imperialism, a big army what his ability or courage may be.

There is a great protest during the week by the ministry in all the large cities against vice and crime. Public meetings have been held in many large cities to devise ways and means to suppress vice which is everywhere rampant. Recent statistics show that crimes cost the taxpayers of the country more than the value of the whole wheat crop. That is to say the ordinary every-day crimes, not the wholesale crimes committed by Rockefeller and Carnegie who rob by the million and not by snatching pocketbooks are breaking into stores. If such crimes were counted, it would take the corn crop also to settle the bills. Large public meetings have been held during the week in Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Philadelphia and other cities, attended by the goodie-goodies, who hold church membership and pray for peace on earth and good will to man and then vote for wars of conquest, government by force, large armies and navies. No suppression of vice will come along those lines.

The Independent has been calling attention to this increase in vice and crime for years. The state of society