

# The Nebraska Independent.

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## NEW APPORTIONMENT

Congressman Stark Gives His Views Upon the Subject—Increasing Plurality Power in Congress.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 17.—Representative Stark replied good-humoredly today when the subject of the Omaha Bee's criticism upon his attitude on the ratio of representation in congress was mentioned. "The romantic exhortations of its correspondents are more ingenious than ingenious," he said. "He puts forth the argument that a stand for decreased representation in congress would make me so popular with all classes in Nebraska as to insure my election as governor, though the republican national ticket had a plurality of nearly 8,000 at the last election, and at the same time would so commend me to the minority everywhere as to make me the most available candidate for the vice presidency. He accuses me of making combinations with the eastern democracy and working to their advantage, when the most cursory examination of the figures will show that all the ratios for which there is any possibility of my voting would result in a gain to southern rather than eastern democracy."

The truth is that I oppose a divisor that while nominally allowing us to hold our rank with sister states increases the relative power of so many which have interests diverse to our own. Read the list of republican commonwealths that will profit if we adopt a divisor of 18,774 (the number that will be necessary to fix upon to retain our present representation): Ohio, California, Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, Washington, North Dakota and West Virginia, one member each; Massachusetts, Minnesota and New Jersey, two each; Illinois and Pennsylvania, three each, and New York four. Twenty-five seats in congress. Is there one of these states not wedded to the single gold standard? Is there one that has any tendency toward anti-monopoly or anti-trust legislation? Is there one which believes in the income tax, the election of United States senators by the people, or that you can depend upon the placid check upon the rising tendency toward imperialism. Deduct the gain of thirteen made by democratic states under this divisor and there remains twelve congressional votes net that must be given to national bank domination, war taxes and subsidies, for the poor result of making Nebraska seem to have had her own in population when every school boy will be taught differently within twelve months from this time.

Some journalists and politicians would have you believe that the endgame would drop out of the universe, if the congressional representation of our state should be diminished. The death knell of progress and prosperity. But history reads differently. The most celebrated and enterprising states of the union have passed through this experience and are apparently none the worse for it. After the 1840 census, New Jersey, which before had the same representation that Nebraska now has (6), was lowered to five, and for thirty years was held at that number, yet in the last decade New Jersey raised 438,736 in population—nearly a half million people. Between 1810 and 1820 Connecticut was reduced from seven to six, and Massachusetts dropped from 20 to 13. Apparently neither ever felt the jolt as they have steadily improved and have always been known as leading states of the nation. Virginia, mother of presidents, has had a varied experience. In 1820 she had 22 congressmen; fell in 1830 to 12; increased in 1840 to 15; dropped in 1850 to 13; in 1860 to 11; in 1870 to 9 and has since increased. Between 1850 and 1860 Pennsylvania lost four members, being reduced from 28 to 24. In the same decade the great state of New York was diminished from 40 to 34, her present representation, and though she has never regained her lost congressional seats I have never heard that she has suffered from loss of prestige or arrested development, this experience, and not only survived, but are and have been doing pretty well, thank you. It is natural for some people to attribute interested and selfish motives to every action that does not meet with their approval, but I can assure my imaginative critic that I am so much influenced by a desire to be ultimately chosen vice president, than he is favoring increased power of our chief executive over colonial possessions in the hope of being one day appointed Sultan of the Sulu islands.

## A Populist Christmas

For ten years populism has been the greatest force in politics and government in the United States. It has reorganized parties and changed the course of government. One party took its platform four years ago and last year both its platform and its candidate. The dominant party has not only been held in check, but it has been forced to adopt the chief ideas of populism, the increased coinage of silver, and has in part adopted its other most important demand and issued an immense amount of paper money. If ten years ago anyone had suggested to the republican leaders the idea of building a government canal across the isthmus, they would have received the suggestion with ridicule. Now the whole party—congressmen and senators—indorse that project, and they are all probably sincerely in favor of it except the railroad corporations.

Why should not the populists on this

Christmas day rejoice over their most magnificent triumphs. The party was not organized to get the offices, but to get legislation. What have we got? The largest increase in the amount of money in circulation ever made in the same length of time. An indorsement of the principle of government ownership. All that, and more, have we secured in spite of the opposition of banks, railroad corporations and the whole money power of the world. Great advocates of our principles are appearing in most unexpected quarters. Bishop Potter would probably faint if he were told that he went down to New Haven and made a first class populist speech. But that is exactly what he did do. It seems also that we have an ex-president, who, since the question has been out making populist speeches. General Harrison went to Ann Arbor last week and made a speech in which he declared that the constitution applied alike to the states and the territories and that it must apply equally to all the people within the jurisdiction of the government. The view that the constitution did not apply to "our new possessions" he declared to be "shocking," and "would not endure discussion." He said that congress, the executive and the judiciary were all created by the constitution as the governing agencies of the United States; that the powers are defined and limited by the constitution, and that every liberty, including that of uniform taxation, is guaranteed to the widest sweep of national sovereignty.

Did any one ever hear of more rank populism than that? Did any populist ever hope, four years ago, to see an ex-president out advocating populist principles? But this ex-president did more than that. He pulled fun at the McKinley republicans and said that he had noticed that the carrying of the white man's burden always included the carrying of the brown man's gold. Let every populist eat a big Christmas dinner and then go out and congratulate himself that populism is modifying the policies of the nation faster than he had ever hoped that they would.

## Britain Defeated

The death grapple between British diplomacy and American policy over the Hay-Pauncefote treaty in the senate resulted in the adoption of the Davis amendment, by a vote of 65 to 17—the greatest defeat Great Britain has suffered in many a year. This means that the Nicaragua canal is to be an American canal, and that the United States will close the interoceanic highway to its enemies in time of war or keep it open, as may seem best. Not only was the Davis amendment adopted by a vote so overwhelming as to remove all doubt that the Hay-Pauncefote treaty has become a national issue and that Great Britain in now dealing with a nation which will stand with any faction, but abundant evidence was given in the senate that the treaty will be further amended until every trace of British interference in the affairs of this country have been destroyed.

If Great Britain refuses to accept the terms of the United States senate, speaking for the individual American people, the Clayton-Bulwer treaty will be at once abrogated.

## AN INDIAN WAR

Colorado Has Its Annual Big Indian Campaign and Comes Off Victorious as Usual.

Every year out in Colorado they get up an Indian scare, the militia is called out, the governor is asked to call them out. The cowboys and game wardens mount their ponies and start to the hills. Then blood-curdling telegrams are sent to the universities in Washington, the air is full of rumors, the women and children are frightened, the tenderfoot start out of the country, blood-thirsty savages are everywhere seen lurking in the bushes with war paint smeared all over them, signal fires are seen at night, and this year it all ended up with a telegram from the game warden, which said: "I have driven every Indian out of the state." Then gentle peace returned and the children did not cry themselves to sleep at night, any more and the women were not afraid to go to the spring to get a pail of water.

All this is brought about every year in Colorado on account of the law for the protection of big game. In the fall the Indians go out to hunt deer and are accused of getting over into Colorado's game preserves. The thing was a little more ridiculous this year than usual and it inspired the editor of the Aspen Tribune to make a suggestion for a remedy which had a whole lot of merit. It was to appoint Indian game wardens, with a big Indian for chief commissioner, and to bar white men from the game districts for a decade. The Tribune backs up its suggestion with the irrefutable fact that the Indians hunted for centuries at will and practically supported themselves off the game, yet that the animals increased and multiplied so that when the white man came on the ground the mountains and valleys abounded with game. It is pretty hard to get away from the conclusion that the Indians know a great deal more than white men about the way to take care of game though it is a cruel blow to the claim self-sufficiency of the Colorado game wardens.

At a meeting in New York of the owners of railroad stocks and bonds the other day, the presidents who have heretofore thought that they were mighty men, came to the conclusion that the game was about the size of 30 cents. They finally became impressed with the fact that they, too, were only hirelings and if they wanted to continue to draw their salaries, they must obey the nod of the men of money as well as the section hands.

## THE OUTPUT OF GOLD

It is an Astonishment to the World—Six Millions Greater in the United States Than the Record Breaking Year of 1893.

The report of the director of the mint on the gold and silver production during the calendar year 1899, shows only slight variation from the approximate figures given out early in the present year. The final figures are \$71,053,400 for gold and \$32,858,700 for silver at its average commercial value during the year. The gold product was the greatest in the history of the country, exceeding that of 1898 by \$6,590,400, and greater by \$6,050,500 than the estimated product of 1893, the record year in the working of the California placer mines. The principal gains in 1899 over 1898 were in Alaska \$2,934,700, due to the Cape Nome district; Colorado, \$2,787,500, and Utah \$1,165,400.

The silver product of the United States in 1899 was slightly greater than in 1898, being 54,764,000 ounces, against 54,438,000 ounces. The average price for silver during the year on the London quotations was 60 cents an ounce, as compared with 59 cents in 1898.

The following are the figures by states and territories for the 1899 production as valued by the director of the mint:

|                | Gold Value. | Silver Commercial Value. |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Alabama        | 4,300       | 60                       |
| Alaska         | 5,459,500   | 84,960                   |
| Arizona        | 2,566,100   | 946,980                  |
| California     | 15,097,800  | 494,580                  |
| Colorado       | 25,982,800  | 13,567,740               |
| Georgia        | 113,000     | 240                      |
| Idaho          | 1,889,000   | 2,311,080                |
| Maine          | 3,600       | 300                      |
| Maryland       | 800         | 60                       |
| Michigan       | 100         | 67,600                   |
| Missouri       | 100         | 60                       |
| Montana        | 4,760,100   | 9,657,600                |
| Nevada         | 2,219,000   | 506,640                  |
| New Mexico     | 584,100     | 301,980                  |
| North Carolina | 34,500      | 180                      |
| Oregon         | 1,409,500   | 80,580                   |
| South Carolina | 160,100     | 240                      |
| South Dakota   | 6,469,500   | 87,360                   |
| Texas          | 6,900       | 312,000                  |
| Utah           | 3,450,800   | 4,255,980                |
| Vermont        | 100         | 60                       |
| Virginia       | 7,100       | 60                       |
| Washington     | 685,400     | 153,600                  |
| Wyoming        | 29,600      | 240                      |

Totals \$71,053,400 \$32,858,700  
The world's production of gold in 1899 was of the value of \$306,584,900, an increase of \$19,156,300 over the yield of 1898. The principal gains were \$5,560,400 in the United States, \$4,485,600 in Canada (mainly in Klondike) and Australia \$14,860,800. The most important loss was in Africa, which fell about \$7,000,000 below the output of 1898 as a result of the war in the Transvaal. The war broke out in September and mining operations in that field were almost suspended.

But for the interruption in the Transvaal the world's production for the year would doubtless have been \$25,000,000 greater. The Klondike output for 1899 was about \$16,000,000. The world production of silver in 1899 was \$167,224,243 fine ounces, against \$165,295,572 fine ounces in 1898.

Mexico leads and Mexico and the United States produce two-thirds of the silver yield of the world. The world's industrial consumption of gold is estimated at \$72,658,500 and of silver \$24,595,600.

The value of the product of gold in the world during the calendar year 1899:

| By Countries.           | Gold Value.   | Silver Value. |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| United States           | \$71,053,400  | \$32,858,700  |
| Mexico                  | 8,500,000     | 33,267,300    |
| Canada and Newfoundland | 21,324,300    | 2,047,000     |
| Africa                  | 73,227,100    | 1,812,900     |
| Australia               | 79,321,600    | 8,900         |
| Russia                  | 22,167,100    | 80,900        |
| Austria-Hungary         | 1,943,900     | 1,137,300     |
| Germany                 | 74,200        | 3,745,200     |
| Norway                  | 100,100       | 100,100       |
| Sweden                  | 70,600        | 44,200        |
| Italy                   | 165,900       | 482,700       |
| Spain                   | 2,000         | 1,471,800     |
| Portugal                | 4,700         | 2,200         |
| Greece                  | 47,900        | 795,600       |
| Turkey                  | 14,200        | 85,300        |
| Serbia                  | 13,300        | 11,000        |
| France                  | 276,600       | 276,600       |
| Great Britain           | 58,800        | 111,900       |
| Argentina               | 137,700       | 230,100       |
| Bolivia                 | 68,500        | 6,506,400     |
| Chile                   | 893,600       | 2,852,800     |
| Colombia                | 1,809,600     | 2,112,900     |
| Ecuador                 | 47,900        | 4,600         |
| Brazil                  | 2,149,500     | .....         |
| Venezuela               | 1,089,300     | .....         |
| Guiana (Brit.)          | 2,040,500     | .....         |
| Guiana (Dut.)           | 587,600       | .....         |
| Guiana (Fr.)            | 1,688,700     | .....         |
| Peru                    | 628,000       | 2,833,600     |
| Uruguay                 | 34,400        | .....         |
| Jant. Am.               | 58,800        | .....         |
| Japan                   | 790,800       | 996,100       |
| China                   | 5,574,400     | .....         |
| Korea                   | 1,459,000     | .....         |
| E. Indies (Dut.)        | 117,600       | .....         |
| E. Indies (Br.)         | 425,100       | .....         |
| India (Brit.)           | 8,517,500     | .....         |
| Totals                  | \$306,584,900 | \$100,321,100 |

## Would Not Be Right

Editor Independent: Do you think it would be the right course of action for fusion representatives in congress, men who have preached during the campaign that the war waged against the Filipinos was a criminal war, and who were elected by the votes of people who thought the war a crime, to now vote for an army and for appropriations to carry on that war, on the ground that a majority of the people of the United States voted for the war? It seems to us who believe the war a crime now, as well as previous to election, that it would be the same, as for

an individual furnishing a man arms to do a criminal act, and that the war, if it must be carried on, should be carried on by an army and by appropriations authorized by the votes of members of congress who place the dollar above the man and commercial expansion above liberty and life. O. E. HARRIS.

Crete, Neb.  
(The position of The Independent has been that the fusion forces in congress and the state legislature should not engage in "factious opposition" to republican measure, but that is very far from advising that the fusion forces should support such measures by their votes, and if opportunity is given, expose the fallacy of them. But the people having voted for such measures, they are entitled to them. Reason has no effect upon most republicans. They can only be convinced by an actual, physical demonstration. It is to the interest of good government in the future that they should have it.—Ed. Ind.)

## The Hunter Nuisance

If our legislators want to merit and receive the everlasting gratitude of the farming population of this great country, let them amend our hunting laws. The quail should not be considered a game bird at all, or should be specially protected at all seasons for a series of years. Several hundred thousand harmless and beneficial as a destroyer of noxious insects and weed seeds, and the open season for shooting all kinds of game should be confined to wild lands and open tracts of country. Why should the "sportsman" have any more right to invade my fields and shoot my rabbits and quails than he should have to shoot my chickens and turkeys? Is it not a national disgrace that the laws of our land are so loose that a man cannot protect all the animals within the borders of his own private domains from the ruthless attacks of soulless marauders? There were perhaps a half dozen flocks of quail in the neighborhood of my place this season, and as they have for a number of years become pretty nearly extinct, our farmers were greatly pleased to see them returning. But no sooner did the open season arrive than the warfare began, and it was "bang, bang, bang," from daylight till dark, with men and dogs in line, marking their courses through orchard and woodland, until the cheerful piping of our quail is heard no more. If the family cat, or a turkey or chicken happen to stray a few rods away from the house the chances are that they, too, will often fall a victim and help to fill the game-bag of some "smart" sportsman.

Several times a week I have seen and cattle have come to my notice, and altogether it is becoming an unbearable nuisance. The only protection we have at present is in posting up trespass notices, and be it known they have but very little effect. The hunters well know that we have no power to prevent them from doing as they please. If our laws would make all the game within a man's enclosure his personal property, and make it a punishable offense for outsiders to invade the grounds at all seasons without written permission of the owner, very little game would be destroyed either in season or out. If every farmer who suffers from this wrong would write to his representative, it is possible that it might be righted.—Isaac F. Tillinghast.

## We'll Civilize 'em

An Indianapolis paper recently published a letter written by Custer Henderson of St. Bernice, Ind., who is serving in the Philippines, in which, among other things, he says: "Last October there were brought here from China about 800 of the lowest type of Chinese women, and they are installed in houses, some for officers and some for private soldiers. The worst of it is these houses are all decorated inside with the stars and stripes and at night the streets are a mass of howling, drunken, half-naked women and American soldiers."

"We have just started to civilize the poor heathen. Wait till we finish the job. This may be expected as a natural consequence of a policy of conquest and plunder rarely identified with surprising if within a few years the same conditions prevail in 'our new possessions' that mark the sway of England in India.—The Toiler.

## Pauper Farmers

The pauper farmers who have a pull, will soon begin to receive from their congressmen their gifts of seeds for which the farmers who are not paupers will pay. Our paternal government annually gives away 24,000,000 packets of garden seeds and tens of thousands of dollars' worth of flower and field seeds. The specifications call for 241,000 pounds of lettuce, onion, cucumber, beet, radish and melon seeds and 15,000 bushels of sugar corn pens and beans, besides many thousand pounds of other seeds and other products, some of which have a claim to value for food or ornamental purposes, and much of which can only be rightfully denominated as trash.

## It Struck Him

The Polk County Independent, which bears the sub-title "a republican newspaper," last week printed the following editorial:  
"The editor of this paper is a lawyer but he does not need to tell the people of Polk county that he has had a howling success in this profession, for McKinley prosperity has driven him out of business, as the receipts from his profession for the past two months, if involved in a careful, businesslike way, would not buy a postage stamp therefore he made up his mind to go into the newspaper business and starve to death."

## PATRIOTISM

As Defined by The Modern Imperialist It is the Most Dispicable Thing Known to Mankind

Tolstol has recently written a book entitled "Patriotism and Government." In it he discusses this modern idea of patriotism which says: "My country, right or wrong." The great philosopher insists that this sort of patriotism is the very worst of human passions. We can see its effects upon the American people. The incontestable facts of history, now known to all men, are that before Admiral Dewey sailed from Hong Kong he cabled the American consul at Singapore to have Aguinaldo meet him at Hong Kong. The two met there, and by arrangement Aguinaldo proceeded to Manila to raise the Filipino standard and cooperate with Dewey in the conquest of the Spanish forces. That more than 30,000 Filipinos rallied to Aguinaldo's call, and that this Filipino army did all the fighting and conquering on land that was done, until the taking of Manila, which was by arrangement with the Spanish general—the Spanish forces to put up only resistance enough to make a show of defense—that the Spanish might not be disgraced when they returned to Spain. That the Filipinos thus rallied and fought in expectation of their own independence, which expectation was in nowise discouraged by the American officials at Manila or Washington. That the fighting ended with the occupation of Manila, and was followed with negotiations ending in the treaty of peace. That by the treaty, the United States bought from Spain its overthrown sovereignty over the islands, and with it its warrant notified the Filipinos that their further struggle for independence was fruitless; that the United States had bought them, owned them and they must submit to the new master instead of the one that had just sold them. Not being willing to yield their independence, the United States proceeded to kill them with bullets and sword and bayonets, and to lay waste their cities until, overawed, those who succeeded in living might submit to American rule. And the war is yet going on.

That is the work that this thing that the imperialists call patriotism has forced the American people to do. In Germany it forces every male citizen upon arriving at the age of twenty-one years to enter the army and there remain for three years. In France practically the same law prevails. In Russia the same—differing only in details. This is slavery in its most detestable form. For three years the citizen is absolutely subject to the dictatorship of a multitude of petty officers; the slightest form of disobedience is punished with imprisonment, and what in civil life would be no offense at all is often punishable with death.

This same sort of patriotism will force a hundred thousand American citizens into perpetual slavery in a regular army in the United States, that is, if the bill passed through the senate that was recently rushed through the house. A hundred thousand Americans who must obey every wish and nod of petty officers, do any sort of work in the army, and which may be imposed upon them. A hundred thousand American youths, transformed from free men to a slavery more onerous than that to which the African slave was ever subjected and all in the name of patriotism. This sort of patriotism has become a world-wide thing. It is preached from the pulpits and eulogized in the parlors.

This thing called patriotism is worth studying for a while. It elected McKinley. It defeated the reform forces. It saddled upon this country a great standing army, a great navy and a great fleet. It is the cause of the investigation. What is it? Shall it form the policies and rule the people of this country for generations yet to come? Or shall it be denounced for the cruel and wicked thing that it really is?

## CANAL CAN WAIT

Philippine Wars, Great Standing Armies Immense Navies all Come High and the People Can Wait for a Nicaragua Canal.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—The republicans want to get a lot of business out of the way before congress takes a recess for the holidays.

The ship subsidy bill got by the house easily enough, but Hanna is worried about its progress in the senate. Just think what a howl would be raised if it were proposed to pay the farmers of this country nine millions a year to encourage agriculture. Imagine the derision that would be excited by paying the bulk of the subsidy to those already owning farming land and paying it without regard to the amount of the crop or whether one was raised at all or not.

The subsidy would encourage laziness among those who already owned farming land, but it wouldn't encourage improved methods in order to grow bigger crops and it would encourage poor men to go from the cities to take up farming.

Queer, isn't it how quickly the subsidy bill would be punctured by the common sense of the people if it applied to anything on land. But just make it shipping subsidy and the whole thing gets out of the grasp of the average voter.

There is a big English firm trying to obtain an interest in one of the chief ship-building concerns in this country. English capital sees the value of subsidies from afar. Imagine subsidizing the American laborer in addition to his daily wages in order to

protect him from foreign competition. How very dreadful it would seem to all the economists and business men. But when it comes to a subsidy on shipping, of course that's different.

One of the arguments made by the subsidy people is that they would have vessels ready for government use in case of war. If they did it would be at a very high price. The subsidy would be forgotten then.

During the Spanish war the government bought hundreds of vessels from private owners at about four times their real value. Instead of keeping them for transport service, they were sold back again at ridiculously low figures and now some of the same vessels are being rented at an exorbitant price. It costs \$12,000 a day for the rental of vessels in the Pacific transport service.

As to the Nicaraguan canal, that's another matter. If our Philippine war our new standing army and our fighting navy come too high, why then dear people can just wait for their canal. That's a purely commercial measure any way and cannot be expected to engage the attention of an imperialist administration just now. EYA McDONALD VALISH.

## Principal Imports

The transport Hancock arrived at San Francisco on Monday from Manila with the bodies of 1,500 American soldiers and sailors who had died in battle or from disease. The number of corpses was increased on the voyage by the death of seven of the three hundred and odd sick soldiers aboard who had been invalided home. The transport Grant is following the Hancock across the Pacific with 250 more bodies. Many other similar gruesome cargoes preceded these and many others will follow. Steamship holds filled with dead Americans are one principal import from the Philippines.

Is the game worth the candle? It doesn't matter so much about the \$12,000,000 or \$14,000,000 a month the United States is spending to carry on the war. The country can stand that. But the loss of lives and the much greater loss in men permanently injured, Oriental diseases, the drain on the life blood of the nation. The shiploads of dead are the harvest of imperialism. They are a sacrifice to the craze for forcible aggression which takes the place of the greedy idol, Baal, into whose brazen furnaces the ancients used to cast thousands of children. We regard the ancients as murderous lunatics.—Denver News.

## WOULD ROB THE STATE

An Attempt to Enter the State Capitol Building to Loot the Treasury.

Wednesday night an attempt was made to rob the state treasury. At about 3 o'clock a general alarm was turned in from the capitol and the night police force and the sheriff hastened to the building. They found the night watchman and one of the janitors in a state of excitement, the watchman having just exchanged shots with two or three men who had left without ceremony. The windows of the office of the state treasurer were open and the rooms were in some confusion. A candle was found, and a stout cement sack, bearing the name of a Ft. Dodge, Ia., plaster firm. A small chest was found near the window in the vault room.

F. M. Good, the night watchman, said that in his usual rounds of the building he turned in the A. D. T. call box, which he pulls hourly, at 2:45 a. m. This box is on the door of the treasurer's office. A few minutes after turning in the call box he discovered the men in the corridor when he heard something fall in the treasurer's office. Thinking that perhaps Mr. Meserve was around to test the efficiency of the watch service Mr. Good lay with ear to the bottom of the door until he heard sounds that convinced him that the robbers were in the room.

Making up his mind that the robbers had entered through the basement and that he could cut them off in that way Mr. Good slipped around to the stairway and started down to the basement. Just as he turned the corner down the basement steps he heard a man shout:

"Hold up your hands." He pulled himself back just in time to escape a bullet that cut through his coat lapel and made a hole in the wall at his side. It required but a moment to turn out the gas jet in the stairway. He then heard a sound of some one running in the basement, and as it was dimly lighted took a wing shot at a man as he rushed past the stairway toward the west.

Good then listened, but hearing no further sounds, decided to go to the A. D. T. box and turn in an alarm. Just as he entered the corridor on the first floor he heard a sharp command to hold up his hands. Again he jumped back and again he dodged a bullet. He had his own revolver out all this time, and quickly fired a shot down the corridor toward the east. After that nothing more was heard. The alarm was turned in and in a short time the office was swarming with officers who were ready to follow any clue that might present itself.

Further investigation will be made today and if a proper trail can be found the blood hounds will be put to use in pursuing the guilty parties.

The Dixon County Socialist is no more. It has accomplished its mission—the defeat of the greatest of patriots of the nineteenth century. Born of republican parentage and supported by republican trust funds and operated by one who had claimed to be one of Bryan's most devoted admirers, it has died the death of the unrighteous, to add a few paltry dollars to his purse. If there is any consolation, and satisfaction in such deals it must be found in the mind of a base traitor.—Dixon County Leader.

## TELLING THE TRUTH

How Banking is Done—The Difference Between Checks and Paper Money Issued by the Banks.

Secretary Gage got a truthful mood upon him and made a speech before the students of Columbia college the other day in which he gave them some instruction in banking. The readers of The Independent can make use of it by showing it to republicans who have been in the habit of claiming that bank deposits represented just so much money. They will remember how the great gold bug sage of Nebraska City triumphantly announced that there was over a million of dollars deposited by the farmers in the banks in his county and to prove it cited the bank reports of deposits. The poor fellow probably did not know any better. The Independent recommends this speech by Secretary Gage for study by those who are unacquainted with banking. Only part of it is published here for the truthful mood of the secretary did not hold out until he got through and he went off making a plea for the issue of paper money by the banks but recommending this. That is not only rank heresy upon any sound theory of banking, but an exhibition of financial nonsense never excelled by John Law himself. Mr. Gage said:

It is estimated that, taking the country as a whole, 80 to 85 per cent (this estimate is 50 per cent too large—Ed. Ind.) of all transfers of property and payment of debts are accomplished by the use of checks and drafts, without the use of actual money. Speaking broadly, bank deposits, with their necessary bank checks and drafts, for which the larger part of our paper money is issued, perform in a large way the same function which paper money performs in a small way. But let us get away for a moment from glittering generalities and bewildering figures to a concrete and simple fact which may show how the banker serves, how he takes responsibility for serving, and how he finds profit serving the community.

Mr. A. is a man of some property and of good character. He owns a mill, a furnace or a farm. To produce his business he must buy raw material and hire labor. His capital available for these purposes is at the insufficient. He applies to the banker for a loan. The banker consents to request and a transaction takes place. What is that transaction? Generally this: The borrower gives his note to the banker for a given sum, payable at a certain time, with an interest agreement inserted. The banker in return issues to the borrower a credit for the same amount, like a check, upon which thing is equivalent to contract wherein the banker says: "Promise to pay me a certain sum at an agreed date and I will discharge or pay any checks you may at all times, within the limit of my claim against you, draw upon me. You will see that there is no discovery of enormous credit fund against which checks and drafts are daily drawn in the conduct of daily business affairs.

The clearing-house reports of the principal cities show a weekly volume of about \$1,500,000,000 of this kind of instruments of exchange. Reduced to the daily average, we discover an enormous floating volume of about \$200,000,000 or \$250,000,000. The total credit available fund subject to check is represented by bank deposits, and these amount to about \$4,500,000,000.

We have now come to a point where I desire your particular attention. In granting these credits, to be utilized through the medium of checks and drafts, the banker is essentially free to this extent, namely, he is not obliged to furnish any kind of guaranty that he will pay his dealers' checks, even if found good upon his books. And yet, as we have seen, there exists, through the influence of the banker's credit, a constant general average fund of \$4,500,000,000 available for the transfer of property, and that to the extent of \$200,000,000 or \$250,000,000 every day in the year, these credits are used for the purposes indicated. But there are purposes for which the banker's credits, available only by the use of checks and drafts, do not for can not meet the needs of the public. For purchases at small and remote points, where banking facilities do not exist; for the payment of wages, and for many of the smaller purposes of business life, actual money, in moderate denominations, either in the form of gold silver or paper currency, is essential. An illustration will serve to indicate what I mean. Along the Atlantic coast in the numerous tide waters of rivers, bays and inlets, thousands of men are engaged in gathering the food of the sea. The products of their toil they bring to some one of the main stations, where buyers or the markets are to be found, and there they exchange their commodities for cash in hand. Needs not dissimilar exist through the cotton fields of the south, the corn and wheat belts of the west and the mining regions of the mountains. If the needs of the commercial community in the remote