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THE CRIME OF CRIMES.

The depravity, wickedness and villainy of the money power was never more plainly shown than in their excuse for demanding that silver dollars be made redeemable to maintain the parity. Every one of the scoundrels knows that that is the way to destroy the parity. All the bankers in the United States with all the enormous power that they have could not destroy the parity of the silver dollar with gold as long as the silver dollar is a legal tender and not redeemable in any other kind of money. Although there are 600,000,000 of them in circulation they are always at a parity and always will be as long as they are a legal tender. It is an utter impossibility that they should not be at a parity. These scoundrels well knowing that fact come before the people with the statement that their only object in this new legislation is to maintain the parity. One dollar must be as good as any other dollar, they say. That is the case now. It is impossible that it should be otherwise.

Not a reason will be given why this government should go to the enormous expense of issuing bonds, to buy silver dollars that are just as good as gold dollars. The cry of "exchangeability" and "parity" are not arguments. They are simply catch-phrases to fool the idiots who vote the republican ticket. It is villainy indescribable. Its purpose is to inaugurate wholesale national robbery under the forms of law for the benefit of bankers. It is for the purpose of taxing the poor to pay interest on national bonds that the rich may take from them millions for which they make no return. Any man who has anything to do with it is an infinite scoundrel. He is more of a criminal than a pirate or road agent. It is taking advantage of ignorance to rob and steal. Any man who will give countenance to it should be driven with a whip of scorpions from the face of the earth. The hottest rooms of hell would not be a sufficient punishment for him.

There are hundreds of thousands of deluded, honest, hard-working men who toil from morning until night every day in the year, whom these masterly scoundrels will induce to work and vote for such a measure, because it is labeled "republican" and they think that they are voting for the same principles advocated by Abraham Lincoln. These wily leaders and public robbers know that these men are afflicted with partisan manias, that they cannot reason, that they know nothing of political economy and then come into the field to take advantage of this mania and ignorance to rob these men and their children after them. These human devils in bank parlors deliberately plan to rob such people as that! There has never been in all the history of the world a scheme so vile, so ghastly as this. Being millionaires already they plan to take a part of the portion of the poor.

It is a more despicable confidence game than the work done by the plausible villains who hang around the streets and railroad depots in the great cities and play friend to the strangers whom they run across. More despicable because these men have prostituted the highest and most honorable function of statesmanship to the work of robbing the people of their hard-earned money. If one had the descriptive powers of a Milton or a Dante he could not reveal the wickedness of the crime that these bankers are planning to accomplish. And they will accomplish it. They hold all the avenues of information to the people. Probably not one hundred thousand of the 16,000,000 voters of the United States have ever heard of the plan to issue bonds, buy silver dollars and sell them for bullion, and not ten thousand have any idea what the result of such action would be, aside from those who are pushing the measure in congress. They know very well what the result will be. It will make a perpetual national debt—a debt so large that five generations of men will not see it paid. They know that it will fasten on this country for generations to come the national bank system which makes the people pay double interest on money before it can ever be put in circulation. They know that such a system will give a few men the power to control the finances of this

country and place the fortunes of all ordinary business men at the mercy of a national bank trust. But to the people they say all that we want is to maintain the parity of all our money so that one dollar shall be as good as any other dollar.

What benefit will accrue to the people to create a new national debt of three or four hundred million dollars? What will the farmer, the manufacturer, the merchant or the professional classes get out of it. They will be taxed to pay the interest and the principal. What will they get in return? Will they in any way be benefited by an increase in the national debt? Will they be any richer if they receive and pay out national bank notes in their business instead of silver dollars or silver certificates? That will be the only result to them, except that they will have to pay increased taxes to pay interest on the increased national debt.

What benefit will come to any one besides the bankers? Can any one point to a single one? The bankers will get a gift direct of three or four hundred million dollars, printed at the bureau of printing and engraving in Washington. That they can loan out to the people and receive all the interest that they can force the people to pay, which interest will be added to the millions that they already have. But who else will receive any benefit?

EDITORIAL IGNORANCE.

The ignorance of the editors of the great dailies and some of the magazines and quarterlies is simply astounding, that is, ignorance of current events of importance to the people and matters that are deemed of sufficient interest to invite editorial comment. The Philadelphia American referred to senator Joe Bailey of Texas as a representative from Tennessee. The Nashville American declared that Charles Towne was a senator from Nebraska and a resident of Bryan's home city. In many of the magazines allusions to persons and things show a similar ignorance. There are doubtless many things upon which these editors are posted, that is if they read the columns of their own papers, but they are not things that bear upon the general welfare. They may know all about the divorces in high life, what women got presented at the courts of Europe, who is the world's champion prize fighter, where he lives and where he trains; they know the biggest price paid for a race horse during the last season and all things of a similar nature, but they do not know who so distinguished an individual as Charles A. Towne is, or what state he resides in.

The effort of plutocracy is to draw the attention of the people away from all those things in which they are interested to trivialities and personal gossip. The Associated press is the chief agency in this business. If one will look back to the reports of the sessions of congress which were printed twenty-five years ago and compare them with the meagre space allotted to national legislation in the daily papers of today, he will see what a tremendous change there has been. Although the dailies are ten times larger now than they were then, they devote less than a tenth of the space to national legislation and twenty times as much to scandals and personal gossip and editorial comment thereon. To so great an extent has this been practiced that the editors themselves have become ignoramuses in regard to all matters which intelligent writers were acquainted with a quarter of a century ago. A well-edited weekly, like The Independent, contains more information of value than the seven issues of a forty-page daily in these days.

DESERVES DEATH.

Who has heard the popular clamor for Governor Dietrich's pet bill, introduced by Speaker Sears, to relieve the board of purchase and supplies of the necessity of advertising for bids? Has there been any uprising among the people because under the present law this board is obliged to let contracts for supplies to the lowest bidder? Perhaps, as a member of the board, Governor Dietrich may have a strong desire to let certain contracts to the highest bidder, provided the bidder be a republican and a member of the close corporation the governor is trying to form with himself at the head. But do the taxpayers, who have the bills to pay, have an earnest desire to pay more than a reasonable price for the maintenance of state institutions? There can be no serious objection to advertising for bids; there can be none too much publicity in all public matters. We live under a competitive system; let would-be contractors compete with each other, and, other things being equal, let the contract be given to the lowest bidder. That's business. Governor Dietrich's "under-the-hat" bill should be buried beyond the hope of resurrection.

McKinley's way of working the supreme court seems to be to appoint their sons to office and push a bill through congress to double their salaries. If anything more infamous than that ever occurred in the White house, it was never made public.

THE STATE TREASURY.

State Treasurer Steufer has gone about his business during the past month without making any noise, but during that time he invested \$45,532 of the permanent school fund in state warrants. He paid a premium of one per cent part of the time and one-half of one per cent the remainder and got about all the warrants in sight. As soon as the legislature passes a bill transferring the dead sinking fund to the general fund he will issue a call for \$100,000 worth of state warrants.—"Under the Dome," State Journal.

And State Treasurer Steufer will be given full credit by every populist in the state for all the good work he does. The investment of any portion of the educational funds in state warrants by a republican treasurer is in pleasing contrast to the republican administration which, to the state's great advantage, came to an end on January 5, 1897. But let us examine the Journal item in the light of history:

During the month of January, 1900, Treasurer Meserve invested \$65,977.23 of permanent school funds in general fund state warrants, or over \$20,090 more than Treasurer Steufer secured in January, 1901. Evidently there was no occasion for Treasurer Steufer or the Journal to "make any noise" about his investments.

The premium of 1 per cent, paid part of the month by Treasurer Steufer, was ordered by the fusion board of educational lands and funds because a decidedly unhealthy demand for capital was causing the owners of capital to bend their energies toward securing all the state warrants possible at the then premium of 1/2 per cent, and the state treasurer was not able to buy for the permanent educational funds what was considered the state's quota thereof. In this connection, it should be stated that no matter what the premium, unless it should practically equal the probable interest to accrue on the warrant, the state will never be able to buy all the warrants issued, because there will always be a few persons who will prefer to register their own warrants and hold them until called for payment, knowing the investment to be safe beyond any cavil, even if the interest be very low. But it is undoubtedly a good policy to say that the state treasurer shall so manage affairs that he will be able to buy practically all of the general fund warrants offered for sale. And the only way this can be done is to outbid the warrant brokers and private investors.

Why did the republican board of educational lands and funds reduce the premium to 1/2 per cent? Evidently Treasurer Steufer did not get the state's full quota of warrants, because he fell behind more than \$20,000 as compared to January, 1900, and the warrants issued in January, 1901, are probably \$20,000 to \$30,000 greater than in January the year before. Why the reduction in premium? Is it to be followed by another, ordering the treasurer to pay par only; and finally a withdrawal of the order to buy at all? Time alone will tell. But the people are watching this matter, and any attempt to fall into the habits that marked the former republican administrations will surely arouse their indignation. Is it possible that the republican board of educational lands and funds is paving the way to reach that happy condition, dreamed about nightly by Bill Dorgan and others of his ilk, when state warrants will again go begging at 2 to 5 per cent discount? A premium should not be paid unless there be necessity for it; but it appears on the face of the returns that there was necessity for a premium of 1 per cent during all of last month.

Treasurer Steufer started in with only \$91,639.46 of uninvested educational funds. These, it should be stated for the information of the Omaha Bee, were placed in the hands of Omaha bankers for safe keeping. The treasurer has succeeded in buying securities for about half the amount. Very good. But how much did he receive during the month? The Journal is singularly silent upon this score. Republican officials rarely give any information to populist papers; hence, The Independent can only judge the present by the past. A year ago Treasurer Meserve's receipts of permanent educational funds amounted to \$132,287.89. Right on this high tide of McKinley prosperity, the collections ought to be fully as large. Hence, it is safe to say that Treasurer Steufer has about \$180,000 of uninvested trust funds, or double what he had to start in with. The Independent will not repeat the Omaha Bee's demand so often made to Treasurer Meserve; it will not ask to be taken into Treasurer Steufer's confidence and be told where this large sum of money is now kept. The Independent has confidence that Treasurer Steufer will not knowingly keep this money in an unsafe place, and it has no criticisms to make of his course in "sawing wood" and saying nothing. But he must be ever on the alert for investments, else in less than six months the uninvested trust funds will approximate a half to three-quarters of a million dollars—and The Independent will be speaking out in meekly regular every week.

How about that proposed call for general fund warrants? "As soon as the legislature passes a bill transferring the dead sinking fund to the gen-

eral fund he will issue a call for \$100,000 worth of state warrants." Now, that is decidedly refreshing. Doesn't Treasurer Steufer know that there is a senatorial fight to the death now on the boards and that the anticipated transfer may not come until some time in March? The Independent has objections to this delay. The crowning feature of Treasurer Meserve's administration was his policy of requiring county treasurers to remit monthly, except in the case of the smaller counties, and his frequent calls for registered general fund warrants. The frequent turning over of this money resulted in a large saving of interest. How much is now in the general fund? Again the Journal is silent, and pop papers are not among those favored with information. In January, 1896, the general fund receipts were \$81,000 and warrants paid, \$57,600; in January, 1900, the receipts were \$70,000; payments, \$22,000. Treasurer Steufer started in with \$19,893.96 on hand; he has probably \$90,000 now—enough to make a very respectable call. Why delay longer? Another month's delay will cost the people \$300 in unnecessary interest. But that is not all: during this month Treasurer Steufer will receive at the least calculation \$145,000 of general fund taxes; and by the time the legislature gets the "dead sinking fund" transferred, he will have in all about \$300,000 of general fund balance. Is it the part of wisdom to delay making a call for warrants? "A penny saved is a penny earned;" will the new treasurer be equal to the emergency? It remains to be seen.

A BANKER INFAMY.

The national bankers have induced the government to perpetrate an infamy that was never undertaken by any other government on earth. No czar, monarch or king ever dared in a plentitude of their power to commit such a crime against their subjects. This government makes a printed piece of paper, a simple note of hand, issued by a private corporation a legal tender. The proof of it can be found on any national bank note. On the back of them all is printed these words:

"This note is receivable in all parts of the United States in payment of all taxes and excises and all other dues to the United States, except duties upon imports and also for all salaries and other debts and demands owing by the United States except interest on the public debt."

No government can get to a lower depth of infamy than when by the force of its power it makes its citizens take a printed piece of paper in liquidation for all debts that it may owe them for services or supplies furnished it, when that piece of paper is simply a promise to pay issued by a private corporation. The men who hold bonds of the United States must be paid their interest in gold coin, but those who serve the government in the army and navy, in a civil capacity or furnish it supplies must take a piece of paper in full payment for all that is due them. We repeat that no government ever attempted such an infamy except this bank controlled government of the United States.

The banker's only hope that they can keep their thousand millions of paper afloat after silver is destroyed, and the dollars are melted up and sold for bullion, is that this government has made their "promises to pay" a legal tender. To make the government take a legal tender, the bankers say is an infamy, but to make their notes legal tender is all right. Look at the vast sums for which national bank notes are a legal tender! Think of the infamy of a government that would do such a thing!

Three or four weeks ago The Independent informed its readers all about the great railroad trust formed by Rockefeller and the Vanderbilts by which a through line was owned and operated by one company, by means of steamship lines and railroads from London to New York, thence across this continent and on to Hawaii, China, Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia. Last Sunday the slow-going dailies got around to it and gave it several columns of space. Rockefeller will soon be monarch of all he surveys. With the control of immense railroad and steamship lines to all parts of the world and a string of banks reaching into every state and territory of the union, he will control the transportation and money of the country. By the use of this power he can make and unmake man, corporation or political party. There is a moral to this little story. If you want the news of this advance to a government by Rockefeller, of Rockefeller by Rockefeller, take The Independent and you will have it weeks or months before the dailies will say anything about it. After a thing has long been accomplished they will write a monologue on the subject. Until everything is settled and all finally accomplished they will not say a word about it.

Senator Vest defines the tariff system as an "interdependent mutuality of greed. Whenever you touch one part of that system every portion of it is in arms."

THE UNITED STATES SENATE

At the rate the United States senate is progressing it will not be many years until it will become one of the most disreputable legislative bodies on the face of the earth. On the floor and behind the scenes, the most scrupulous courtesy is maintained, but behind it all, generally hidden from the public view, is a villainy, a greed, a disregard of the welfare of the people which has never been exceeded in any legislative body on earth. Several of the members of the senate spend days and even weeks of every session in bestial drunkenness. The private character of some senators is so foul that no decent self-respecting family, if it were not for their official position, would allow them in their kitchens. To such members the senate often pays especial honors. No man could acquire a worse moral character than Quay, but when he had succeeded in being returned to the senate over the protest of every decent man in his own state, the senate gathered around him and paid him special honors.

Many men hold membership in that body who have no qualifications at all, either mentally, morally or educationally, to perform the important duties of that office. A very marked case is that of the senator recently elected by the state of Utah, which was effected by a coalition between the polygamists and the managers of the republican party. He has nothing to recommend him except that he is a millionaire several times over. He is almost entirely illiterate. In the late campaign in advocating imperialism he insisted in his speeches that Alaska was a "sunlit island," and called the inhabitants of the Philippines "Filipponies." One can estimate his ability to use the English language by examining the following sentence taken from one of his speeches:

"And, gentlemen, I trust that there is not one of you wosh wishes to throw a stone in the way of that grand industry, because you have hundreds of square miles of rich mountains with untold treasures of wealth that will conquer the generations yet to come."

While such men as Kearns greatly lower the estimation in which the senate has been held, he does not by any means belong to the most dangerous class who gain entrance there. There are men there of the highest education whose power for evil is many times greater than that of such men as Kearns. They do not believe in a democratic form of government. They want power, which the founders took so much pains to distribute through the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government concentrated in the hands of one man. The Spooner bill, which McKinley is so anxious to have pass, is their ideal of the correct form of government. That bill makes the president an absolute autocrat in the Philippines, places the legislative, judicial and executive branches of the government wholly in his hands. The men of education who favor this sort of legislation are the really dangerous ones. They, by their manipulation of parties, give seats to such men as Kearns who instantly become their obedient tools.

One thing connected with the United States senate has attracted a good deal of attention during the last week. A speech was delivered in that body which has not been equalled in force, power, rhetoric and logic since the days of Daniel Webster. The galleries were packed and the floor of the senate itself was occupied to the last inch of standing room by the most distinguished men of the nation who stood for three hours entranced, as they listened. The man who delivered that speech, a scholar, a statesman, a man of pure moral life, left the senate and another of whom no one knows anything except that he is a man of money and that he would be as incapable of delivering such a speech as flying to the moon, took his place. Such men as Towne are not wanted in that body by the coterie of millionaires who manage the legislation of the United States.

Such is the United States senate today and when a few of the old senators who have held over since the war die, as soon they must, we will find that either men like Kearns or the educated plutocrats will take their places.

LET THE PEOPLE SAY.

Some people say that if members of the legislature were elected for two terms, by the second term they would learn the ropes and accomplish more than under the present system. As it is the majority of the members spend almost the entire session finding out what they should have known at the start.

It is argued on the other hand, that two-terms of the dangerous class would off-set the good of two-terms of the type anxious to accomplish legislation for the benefit of the state. A man skilled in working through bills of the dangerous character is capable of doing as much injury as one skilled in doing good work.—State Journal.

The whole trouble lies in the fact that the so-called representatives of the people, the legislators and the governor, have the final say as to what shall be the law—barring, of course, the fact that the supreme court occasionally (and perhaps too often) gets

an opportunity of having the last word.

No one seems to have any serious objections against the practice of allowing the people to vote on constitutional amendments. However, in this state, the submission is so hedged about by supreme court decisions (which practically decide nothing definitely) that it is almost useless to submit several amendments at the same time. But that does not affect the principle involved. Under the provisions of a well-framed law, what serious objections could be urged against allowing the people an opportunity if desired of expressing themselves on every important act of the legislature, except, of course, emergency legislation?

Theoretically our form of government is representative. Practically it is far from it. A majority of all who voted on the question last fall expressed themselves as favoring Hon. Edward Rosewater for United States senator; but the "representatives" of these people have an entirely different opinion. No man who has ever received a majority as preference for United States senator has ever been elected by the Nebraska legislature—and Mr. Rosewater, in our opinion, will be no exception to the rule. In each instance the legislature has been misrepresentative instead of representative.

The theory the people have control of their so-called representatives by means of the ballot box. In practice this is found to be fallacy. So long as he keeps within the pale of the law and commits no overt act, either malum in se or malum prohibitum, the representative is absolutely not only his own master, but master of his "constituents" as well. He may be a true representative or he may be a misrepresentative, whichever he chooses, and those who elected him are absolutely powerless to prevent his doing exactly as he wills, unless he is "fool enough," as Ouida would put it, "to break the law." Nine-tenths of all the real devilry is committed under the sanction of law; hence, in nine-tenths of such cases the people are helpless in the hands of their so-called representatives.

"But the people can rebuke him at the next election," says one. Very true. And you can usually lock the stable after your horse is stolen, always provided the thief has neglected to also steal the stable. There is no disguising the fact that our representative government is sadly defective in a very important particular and that all this talk about "American sovereignty" is, when carefully analyzed in the light of practical experience, a huge joke.

Is there any remedy? Undoubtedly. The foundation is all right; the framework is good; but the master builders forgot about a roof. The building is good in fair weather, but it leaks worse than the notorious Arkansaw cabin in foul weather.

What is the remedy? Let the people themselves have an opportunity to have the last word on any measure enacted by the legislature. Let them have the veto power. Instead of the absurdity of allowing one man (the governor) to set up his judgment as superior to the combined wisdom of more than half a hundred men, let a majority of quarter of a million reject or approve the work of the legislature. Silence gives consent. There will be little occasion to use this power, except to kill vicious legislation; and there will be little incentive to corrupt and bribe legislators when it is known that the people can, and undoubtedly will, place their stamp of disapproval upon anything against their interests. There is no valid objection against referring all legislation, except that to meet emergencies, to the people for rejection or approval, just as is done now in the case of constitutional amendments. Whether such reference shall be obligatory, as with amendments in this state, or optional at the demand of the people is, of course, a matter of detail which does not affect the principle involved.

Under such conditions "a man skilled in working through bills of the dangerous character" would find his wing feathers clipped. The two-term would be in demand, for your average rascal is usually a man of more than average ability, who, when he sees the futility of being a rascal, can turn his hand to doing good.

But tell it not in Gath. It is the initiative and referendum we have been discussing.

The Bee conveyed some very astounding information to its readers last Sunday. In an editorial entitled: "Triumph for the Farmer," it declared that improved farms in Nebraska within three or four miles of a railroad station are now seldom sold at less than \$75 per acre, and more frequently bring prices above that figure. It is safe to say that not a farm in Nebraska was ever sold at anywhere near those figures, unless it might be in some exceptional case where the improvements had cost two or three times the value of the land. If eastern readers get hold of that article there will be very little immigration of farmers into this state.

The bills that the republicans have introduced in the legislature making appropriations for the Buffalo Pan-American exposition are about the cleanest kind of stealing that have ever appeared. They propose to employ three commissioners to go to Buffalo and spend the summer at a salary of \$125,000 a month. That is the same thing they did in regard to the World's fair at Chicago. This writer will never forget when he went to see the Nebraska exhibit and found the old Alliance traitor, Collins, sitting there smoking a pipe beside two ears of corn, drawing a big salary to look after Nebraska's interest at the great fair. The redeemers propose to play that game over again.

There is a difference between a military lie and a lie told by an ordinary civilian. The military prevaricator always leaves a way of escape if he is called to account. General MacArthur gave a fine example of that in a cablegram from the Philippines. He cabled denying that houses of prostitution were "licensed," ignoring the fact that they are inspected and regulated, the inmates compelled to pay for weekly examination and that the permission of the Provost-Marshal General must be obtained, which practically constitutes a license. That is the military sort of lying and it is perfectly respectable, and not at all inconsistent with the character of "an officer and gentleman."

The enlistment of a standing army of 100,000 men will make the military expenses of the United States far exceed that of any other government on earth, for pensions must be counted as part of the military expenses. The absurdity of such a thing is apparent. Situated so as to be unassailable by any foreign power and having no use for regular soldiers at home there is no excuse for such enormous expenditure. It is one of the curses inflicted on the country by the republican party.

The army officer in Manila who is detailed to collect the fees from fallen women and disburse them must find that his detail is perfectly consistent with the character of "an officer and gentleman." There is no report that he ever asked to be relieved from such duty. When he comes home he will be proud of the service which he rendered and tell all his female relatives about it.

From the illicit connection between Mark Hanna, Perry Heath and the Mormon bishops there was born into the United States senate one Kearns. He is just beginning to learn how to talk, some of his sentences still being unintelligible. He is, however, worth \$5,000,000.

Current Comment

During the whole week the space of the daily papers has been largely occupied with the description of the great pageant in London which they call the funeral ceremonies of the queen. The whole thing was military in character. The judicial and legislative departments of the government were entirely ignored by those who arranged the affair. It is said that there were more ruling monarchs in the procession than ever appeared at one place at one time on the face of the earth before. Besides the ruling monarchs, there were hosts of other royalties. These, with displays of cavalry, artillery and infantry, made up the procession. The people stood on the sidewalks glad of the privilege of simply looking on.

"The trades people," as they are called over there, made a good thing out of the vast assemblage. Hotels, lodging houses and all sorts of eating houses and restaurants sent up their prices sky high. Rooms from which to view the procession were rented for a few hours for more money than they usually bring for a whole year. Amid these crowds of cavalry, artillery, infantry, royalties and scaplers the good old queen was laid away to her final rest. Edward VII. is king and emperor of India and there will be a new deal all around among those who draw immense salaries for attending upon the sovereign. Parliament will also have some troublesome questions to settle. It is said that the new king is ten million dollars in debt—the escapades of his life having been very costly affairs. Parliament will have to provide for these debts. Coming upon the heels of the immense expenditures in South Africa, the burden upon the people will be very heavy.

Meantime the Boer war goes on with constant reports of fights. It seems that the English in the whole of South Africa are on the defensive. Lord Kitchener constantly reports loss, both in men and material. Chas. D. Pierce, treasurer of the Boer relief fund gave out the following statement last week: "Advised by cables and newspaper messages from Europe and South Africa are more encouraging than at any time since the beginning of the war. There can be no doubt of the final success of the Boers, who will accept no other terms from Great Britain than peace with honor, meaning the full recognition of both republics with full treaty-making powers and without the language of 'suzerainty.' The Boers are not yet ready to negotiate with England for peace, but are determined to continue the fighting until the general situation is strong enough in their favor to make diplomatic steps certain." "The three pretended peace commissioners sent to Dewet by the British were spies and traitors. They interfered with the burghers. One, an Englishman, was properly shot and it is