

The Nebraska Independent.

VOL. XII.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, FEBRUARY 28, 1901.

NO. 40.

THE NEW ZEALAND WAY

The Shivering Nebraska Mollie Head With Jakes on His Pants Would be Frightened to Think of Such a Thing.

In one of Frank Carpenter's late letters from New Zealand he writes of the way they do things there as follows:

"This is the way they are doing things in New Zealand.

"Here are some questions for the small property holders, for farmers who own lands worth less than \$7,500:

"How would you like to pay no taxes whatever upon one-third of your property, or, if the property is valued at less than \$7,500, no taxes whatever?"

"How would you like to have all your improvements deducted from the assessed valuation and the tax merely laid on the land as it was when unimproved?"

"How would you like to pay only on that part of the land which you really own, the amount of your mortgage being deducted from the tax valuation—to pay, in fact, no tax upon anything outside the unimproved land you have paid for and your income, and this in case the said income annually amounts to more than \$1,500?"

"That is the way they do things in New Zealand.

"How would you like to see the big estates of this country taken possession of by the government and redistributed in small sections to you at cost on long time at 5 per cent interest?"

"How would you like to have advances made to you for building your houses and fencing your land and the terms of payment made so easy that you could either pay for the whole or have it on lease at this low interest for 99 years, the rent not being raised no matter how much improvements you put on the land in the way of cultivation, fertilization and buildings?"

"That is the way they are doing some things in New Zealand.

"The things are among the curious features of New Zealand's land system. The New Zealanders do not believe in large land holdings and they are doing all that they can to have their country divided up into small farms. They call the large land holder a 'social pest' and struggle not to tell him that they will be glad to have him leave the country. They tax him in every way possible to get him to leave and if he is an absentee, they pile on the taxes that he has to sell.

"At present absentee property owners are charged 20 per cent more taxes than those living in New Zealand and the taxes are in proportion to the amount of land one man owns.

"Everything is done to encourage small farmers. The man whose income is less than \$1,500 a year goes scot-free, paying no taxes. He whose farm is worth only \$2,500 is exempt and if his estate is worth \$7,500 he pays taxes only \$5,000 of its value.

"The tax is assessed on the unimproved valuation. The man who takes a poor farm and brings it up to a high state of cultivation pays only on what the land was worth when he first plowed it and his buildings and improvements are only taxed through the income which they bring him when this is over \$1,500 per annum.

"The rich man pays increased taxes on his land, on his income, on everything. Take the land. His tax is levied on its unimproved valuation and this tax is increased according to its value. If his farm is worth more than \$12,500 he gets no exemption whatever. After he reaches the value of \$25,000 there is no deduction of the mortgages upon it and from then on it increases at the rate of an eighth of a per cent in the pound until it reaches a maximum taxation of twopence per pound, which is payable only when the value is a million dollars or more. He pays an increased tax on his income. The man who has only \$1,500 a year pays no taxes whatever, but the man who has up to \$5,000 on this pays sixpence to the pound, or 2 1/2 per cent, and a man whose taxable income is more than \$5,000 pays 5 per cent. This does not seem a great deal without you figure it up.

"Suppose your income was that of a congressman, you would pay 47 1/2 per cent on \$5,000, less \$1,500, or \$37 income tax. If you were one of the justices of the supreme court and got \$10,000, you would have to pay 5 per cent on the extra \$5,000, making your taxes \$27, and if you were one of our big trust magnates with an income of \$1,000,000 a year, your taxes would closely approximate \$50,000, and if you lived in New Zealand you would have to pay them. It is safe to say that such men in the United States do not pay half as much. In New Zealand they would probably be ranked as social pests."

"That is the way they do things in New Zealand. When the populists proposed to the same sort of things in Nebraska what a roar the republican resters made in Nebraska. The more they thought of such things the more and the louder they shouted for Mark Hanna. In fear that the pops might do something like that if they ever got into power they left their fields and hurried to town to march in parades to uphold the millionaires.

"Don't let any one imagine that New Zealand will ever have anything to do with socialism. It has not a single follower they say in the whole of that country. They would never list on a moment to a proposition for the 'public ownership of ALL means of production and distribution.' Each man owns his own farm and his own property. He believes in individuality, not in a common level. He believes, as we stated in the Omaha platform, that 'the land is the heritage of all the people.' New Zealand forges forward as a leader of the whole world

LOYALTY TO BRITAIN

because it has a big majority of populists to run the government. Don't let any old pop show this article to his republican neighbor. If he should see that neighbor might be thrown into spasms and when he recovered he would write a letter to Mark Hanna and ask him to come out here and save Nebraska.

THE FIGHT IS ON

The Crucial Point in This Congress Is Reached—Shall Congress Abolish Its Constitutional Power.

The real crucial point where a fight to death must be made has been reached in the United States senate. The independent has advocated from beginning that there should be no factional opposition to legislation demanded by the republican majority. If this majority of congress wanted to appropriate a billion dollars let them do it. If they wanted to pass a ship subsidy bill, let them do that. If they desired to create a standing army of a hundred thousand men, let them do that. But this question of the abolition of the power of congress to legislate and the passing of that power over to the president should be fought to the bitter end. We can stand the taxation imposed. The standing army can be reduced at any time by a refusal to vote appropriations to sustain it, but this Philippine business is a horse of another color.

The majority intends to push it through and will hold continuous sessions to do so. They began that sort of business last Monday. Senator Morgan, old as he is, was forced to hold the floor until nearly midnight. This legislation is so far-reaching and so disastrous to the helpless millions whom it will effect, who have no vote and whose protest are refused a hearing, whose defenders are denounced as traitors and enemies, that every feeling of chivalry—every honorable motive that moves a man will prompt him to exhaust every means to prevent it.

The independent sends greeting to Senator Morgan and bids him to fight on as long as he can stand on his feet and after that to fight while he has voice to speak.

When Senator Morgan took the floor he declared that the Philippine amendment was in effect an abdication of power by congress and a turning over to the executive branch of complete final authority over the Philippines. Once this power was possessed by the president, congress could never again get hold of it without a two-thirds vote to overrule his veto. It was such a transfer of power as the British parliament would never dream of conferring upon King Edward. The hazard and rashness never equalled in a country having a parliamentary government.

Mr. Morgan said that under the proposed legislation speculators and trusts would lick up the \$3,000,000 acres of lands in the Philippines with their mines and forests of untold richness, without the reservation of a single homestead for the people. The senator expressed the belief that the real motive of the measure was to give authority under which the millions of acres in the Philippines could be "gobbled up" by great speculative enterprises.

Mr. Morgan spoke two hours, and then stated that tomorrow he would take up the question of the right of congress to delegate or abdicate its powers, and after that would discuss the Cuban branch of the subject.

At 10:15 Mr. Morgan's colleague, Mr. Pettus, moved an adjournment, but on a ye and nay vote the motion was defeated.

The senate's refusal to adjourn compelled Mr. Morgan to go on with his speech. As he resumed he referred with feeling to the apparent effort to dagroom this measure through, despite all the proprieties. After an arduous and lengthy session beginning at eleven this morning, Mr. Morgan said, the senate had determined to force an old man to go on with his speech and in effect had served him with notice that he would go on until he closed.

"But," he added, speaking with impressive deliberation, "I would rather leave this chamber a dead man than to leave it a coward."

It would be a plain abandonment of duty, he said, if he should skulk because of his age or because of the late hour of the hour.

Mr. Spooner tried to gain recognition to ask Mr. Morgan as to his plans, but the senator waived him off and caustically declined to yield.

At 11:20 p. m., Mr. Morgan yielded to Mr. Spooner for a motion to adjourn, and the long session came to a close.

WHAT OUGHT TO BE SAID

The Independent Runs up Against a Proposition Where Its Resources in Language Falls It.

When The Independent runs up against some of the monumental lying that the gold standard editors occasionally indulge in, it is free to confess, that while on ordinary occasions it can express its feelings in suitable language—language utterly fails it at those times. It can't do justice to the subject at all. Now here is the Denver Times that printed the following editorial the other day. It said:

"Of course the people who think that if they cannot have things precisely their own way it isn't worth while to have them any way at all, will not be at all content with the proposition of the committee on coinage to recoin into subsidiary coins a portion of the silver dollars that have been lying useless in the treasury vaults for years past.

It doesn't matter, for this purpose, what is the reason why these dollars are not used, and that as often as the attempt has been made to put them into active circulation they have straightway come back into the treasury, it is true that they have done so, and it is also true that all the time the amount of subsidiary coin in circulation has not been as great as the demand for it."

There might have been some excuse for printing such an article as that down in the bright regions of New York, Boston or Philadelphia, but to see it out in Colorado where all the facts and statistics about money have been so often and fully stated, rather staggers one. Silver lying idle in the treasury by the million because it cannot be got into circulation! The facts are that the total number of silver dollars coined by the United States up to December 1 last was 500,403,541. On January 1, 1901—one month later—the number had risen to 504,690,508, showing that the government coined during the month 4,286,967 silver dollars in response to the demand for currency from all parts of the country. Of the 504,690,508 silver dollars in existence on January 1 last there were in the circulation 498,581,729, leaving only 6,108,779 held in the treasury. The silver certificates representing silver dollars, in actual circulation, have increased from \$45,460,863 on January 1, 1900, to \$498,581,729 on January 1, 1901.

Those are the facts. Every man who reads the government official reports knows that they are the facts. Yet this monumental Colorado liar says that "the silver dollars have been lying useless in the treasury vaults for years past." We wish some old pop would tell The Independent what is the proper thing to say when it runs up against a Rockefeller bank lying statement like that.

(A visitor to The Independent office, seeing the above article, wrote at the bottom of it: "The case is hopeless. There is some excuse for the man who knows that he can deceive by a misstatement of facts, but the English language is not rich enough to properly name the liar who lies, well known to that his hearers know he lies.)

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

Reports to R. G. Dun & Co. show failures in January 1,242 in number and \$11,220,811 in amount of liabilities.

Henry Clews says: "The very exceptionally low condition of the bank reserves for this season of the year, with no positive assurance of an early increase of cash funds, while it may not produce any general or very positive discouragement, does hold 'bull' operations in check and induce postponements of buying."

This is the condition that comes around every ten years or so and the plain lesson it teaches is: Get out of debt and stay out.

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PITY THE POOR DUPES

Made to Think That They are Supporting the Principles of Jefferson When They are Voting for the Doctrines of George III.

There is a very large field for patriotic work open before every man. He need not go further than the man who relies upon the daily papers and the Associated press for his information for good material to work upon. Let not get angry with these poor dupes. Many of them are perfectly honest and besides that they suffer from the partisan mania which warps their intellects and clouds their minds.

The other day the editor of The Independent accidentally overheard a conversation between two workmen. One of them vehemently asserted that McKinley's plan in regard to the Philippines was an exact copy of the law that Jefferson approved when Louisiana was annexed and in support of his contention read the following extract from an Associated press dispatch sent from Washington:

"Senator Spooner's bill authorizing the president to establish civil government in the Philippine Islands, which is drawn in almost identically the

BOER PROCLAMATION

President Steyn and General Dewet Declare that the British Constantly Treat With Contempt the Laws of War.

The following proclamation has been issued by President Steyn and General Dewet:

"Be it known to all men that the war which has been forced on the Transvaal republic by the British government still rages over South Africa; that all the customs of civilized warfare and also the conventions of Geneva and The Hague are not observed by the enemy, who have not scrupled, contrary to the Geneva convention, to capture doctors and ambulances and deport them in order to prevent our wounded from getting medical aid, that they have seized ambulance material appertaining thereto; that they have not hesitated to have recourse to primitive rules of warfare, contrary to the solemn agreement of The Hague, to arrest neutrals and deport them and to send out marauding bands to plunder, burn and damage burghers' private property; that they have armed Kaffirs and natives and used them against us in the war; that they have been continually capturing women and children and old and sickly men and that there have been many deaths among the women because the so-called Christian enemy has no consideration for women on a sickbed or whose state of health should have protected them against rough treatment.

"Honorable women and tender children have not only been treated roughly, but insulted by soldiers by order of officers. Moreover, old mothers and women have been raped. Even the wives, children and property of prisoners of war and burghers have not been respected. In many instances mother and father have been taken, the house has been left unprotected and have been left to their fate, and easy prey to savages.

"The world has untruthfully been informed by the enemy that they have been obliged to carry out this destruction because the burghers blow up the railway lines, cut the wires and misuse the white flag. Nearly all the burghers in the territories have been destroyed, whether in the neighborhood of the railroad or not. The alleged misuse of the white flag is simply a continuance of the everlasting calumny against which the Afrikaner has had to strive since the time God brought him in contact with the Englishman. Robbing his opponent of goods only does not satisfy him; he is not satisfied until he has robbed him of his good name also.

"They state to the world that the republics are conquered, and that only here and there small plundering bands are continuing the strife in an irresponsible manner. This is an untruth. The republics are not conquered. The war is not finished. The burgher forces of the two republics are still led by responsible leaders, as from the commencement of the war under the supervision of the government of both republics. The fact of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener choosing the term 'marauders' in designating burghers does not make them such. When was the war over? Perhaps after the battles in which irregulars captured the enemy and totally vanquished them? The burghers would be less than men if they allowed the enemy to go unpunished after ill-treating their wives and destroying their houses from sheer list of destruction. Therefore a portion of the burghers resist it. Cape Colony will not only wage war, but will be in a position to make reprisals, as it has already done. In the case of ambulances, therefore, we warn the officers of his majesty's troops that unless they cease the destruction of property of the republics we shall wreak vengeance by destroying the property of his majesty's subjects who are unkindly disposed. But in order to avoid being misunderstood, we hereby openly declare that the wives and children will always be unmolested, in spite of anything done to ours by his majesty's troops. We request nothing from our brothers in the colony, but call on them, as well as on the civilized world, to assist in behalf of our joint civilization and Christianity in putting an end to the barbarous manner of the enemy's warfare.

"Our prayer will always be that God, our Father, will not desert us in this unrighteous strife.

"STEYN and DEWET."

CUBAN CONSTITUTION

It Has Been Sent to Washington—Republicans in a Muss—Imperialism a Permanent Policy.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 22.—The Cubans have finished their constitution and forwarded a copy to the president of the United States. The administration, through General Wood, governor of Cuba, made a strong effort to keep the convention in session until after congress had adjourned here, the idea being that the responsibility for delay in dealing with the matter might then be charged to the dilatory tactics of the Cubans themselves.

The failure of that plan and the arrival of the constitution starts afresh the talk of an extra session.

The administration assumes that congress has a right to dictate to the Cubans what sort of constitution they will adopt and holds that congress should take up the matter.

It is now said that an extra session will be called about March 15 after the president and his friends have recovered from the fatigue of the inaugural ceremonies.

It is a little difficult to understand why the administration should hold

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A BAD SAMPLE

The Butcheries and Barbarities are the Result of the Craze of Imperialism, Not of Christianity.

"Minister Wu's plea for confucianism would be stronger if he had some other sample to show than China as it now exists."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

That is true, and we may add that it would be vain to plead for Christianity. If we had no better "samples to show" than such as the soldiers of Christian Europe have exhibited in China during the past six months. Never since the religion of Christ became its triumphal march has it been more loudly challenged, more imperatively called to show its superiority, and never has it so signally, sadly, shamefully failed.

The soldiers of Christian Europe, under officers supposed to represent, if not the best products of Christian civilization, at least a long stride away from heathenish barbarity, have perpetrated against unarmed and defenseless people, against both sexes and all ages, every crime which villainess of soul has ever suggested to the most depraved of human beings. "It will be much more than a generation," says the New York Times, "before the Chinese are as hospitably disposed toward Christianity as they were before the troops under European command gave them their awful exhibition of applied Christianity." Bishop Potter of New York put the case tersely when he said that in the conflict of "Christendom" with China the latter held the better moral position. The Baltimore Sun, speaking upon the evidence furnished by the highest authorities, declares that "if the European soldiery who have given free rein to their murderous and licentious instincts were in any manner or degree representatives of Christianity, there would be no choice between the religion they practice and that of the most degraded cannibal." The Sun adds: "The man nature in it, most depraved and detestable form never appeared more hideous than in the brutalities of which the Chinese have been victims in the past six months." Ifordes of Apache, Comanche and Modoc Indians had been let loose upon the Chinese the latter could not have suffered more at the hands of these savages than they have endured from the armies of "Darkest Christendom."

Before this time of horror began, Christianity had gained a strong hold in many parts of the empire. As an illustration of that fact it is stated, on reliable authority, that not less than 40,000 native converts suffered martyrdom at the hands of these savages, preferring to be tortured to death rather than to recant the Christian faith.—Washington Post.

COURT FAVORITISM

If we Will Have Imperialism we Must Take Along With It All Its Concomitants.

If we have imperialism, which is now the acknowledged policy of the administration and openly defended, whereas a while ago it was denied or excused, we must have everything that necessarily accompanies it. One of these things is a court after the fashion of all imperial governments. A court necessitates favoritism. Those who are closest to the imperial commander, such as McKinley will be after the Spooner bill passes, or who have friends at court who can influence the appointments and the rich contracts. It may be said to be already established at Washington. The favoritism shown is causing some of the mallet head editors to make mild protests—such protests as would be allowed in any despotic government. Several of such mild comments have been made in newspapers in the different states concerning the nomination of Frederick D. Grant, J. Franklin Bell and Leonard Wood to brigadier generalships in the regular army.

Frederick D. Grant is a volunteer officer whose sole service in the field has consisted of about one year's employment in the Philippines in the present guerrilla warfare, and there is no record that he has distinguished himself by special merit. A dozen colonels serving in the Philippines have a far better record. As an instance, Colonel Rice of the Twenty-sixth volunteer infantry may be taken. He went into the civil war as captain of the Nineteenth Massachusetts infantry in September, 1861, and served through the war, being mustered out as lieutenant colonel June 30, 1865. He went into the regulars a lieutenant of the Fortieth infantry July 23, 1866, and has been in the service continuously since. He was brevetted captain for gallant service at Antietam; was brevetted major for gallant service at Gettysburg, and was brevetted lieutenant colonel for gallant service at the Wilderness.

Grant has been jumped over 804 captains, 277 majors, 98 lieutenant colonels and 77 colonels of the regular army.

Captain J. Franklin Bell is 44 years of age. He graduated from West Point in 1878, became a captain in the seventh cavalry in March, 1890. He is jumped over 584 captains, 277 majors, 98 lieutenant colonels and 77 colonels. Captain Bell is almost unknown compared with such men as Colonel Daggett and Colonel Kellogg. Colonel Daggett led the American troops into Pekin last summer. He went into the

SOMETHING FOR EACH

Editor Independent: Enclosed find an express order for \$2.35. Send the Commoner one year to John Porter at Angus and extend his time to The Independent. Send Commoner to G. A. Byer at Edgar for three months and give one dollar to the campaign fund and credit to Sherman precinct, Knox county.

W. H. KINNISON, Angus, Neb.