

The Nebraska Independent

Lincoln, Nebraska
PRESSE BLDG., CORNER 13TH AND N STS
ELEVENTH YEAR
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
\$1.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

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The heavenly twins will serve the railroads while they live and go to the bankers' heaven when they die. But they say that is a warm country.

Is there an overproduction of lawyers in this state? It is said that one hundred and twenty-five of them applied for the nine places as commissioners of the supreme court.

There are two things that a republican hates with all the vindictiveness ever ascribed to satan. The first is a populist and the second common schools and universities. As a proof, examine the recent republican vetoes.

An old pop farmer writes to The Independent that he lives next to the "meanest republican" in the whole state. That farmer is mistaken. The real, low-down, meanest republican in the state is a gold democrat.

The tariff on steel does not produce a dollar of revenue. It only makes the American consumer contribute seven dollars a ton on all the steel used in this country to the steel trust. This is a business man's government.

General Grant did not receive so great a reward for the capture of Vicksburg, 25,000 prisoners and 300 canons, as Funston did for catching one runaway Asiatic. The ways of imperialism were not in vogue when Lincoln was president.

The ascension of a throne and the placing of a crown upon any man's head these days is simply a sentence for life in a guarded palace, with semi-occasional outings under a heavy guard. If the monarchs like that sort of thing, the rest of us can stand it.

McKinley's army has captured and made a prisoner of the first president of a republic ever set up in Asia. Isn't that glory enough for one administration? What greater glory could a gold standard president attain to? Is there anything beyond that to which he can aspire?

We pay about fifty millions a year in taxes on sugar besides the unnumbered millions that go into the coffers of the sugar trust. We have a business government, by business men, for business men. That is what the Wall street convention said they wanted and it seems that they got it.

The steel trust was organized to reduce the cost of producing steel—to introduce economy and stop waste, was said to be the cause of its organization. Its first act of economy was to pay its president \$1,500,000 a year. Now let us see what its next effort at economy will be.

Thompson does not seem at all misanthropic. He goes about his business as usual although it is said that he has been heard humming that old Scotch ballad in which these lines appear:

"The best laid schemes of mice and men
Gang aft agley."

The Chicago American and Grover Cleveland want to "go back" to the principles of democracy, they say, but they do not tell us how far back they want to go. Do they want to "go back" to Cleveland or to Judge Taft and Bob Toombs? If they will only go back far enough The Independent will be with them. Let them "go back" to the democracy of Jefferson. Even Bryan would not have any objection to that. Just let them fix the place where they want to "go back" to and they needn't say anything more.

The republicans of Topeka, Kas., have suddenly become populists, as they seem to be doing all over the country. Their candidate for mayor, who for ten years has branded everything advocated by the populists as either anarchy or socialism, undertook to convince the citizens of that city that he favored the city ownership of waterworks more earnestly than his opponent and made a campaign on purely populist principles. Just as soon as he is labelled city ownership "republican" every mullet head in the town walked up to the polls and voted for it.

FOUNDATION FOR CORRUPTION

By the aid of an unlimited corruption fund and the importation of 20,000 voters, the republicans managed to "redeem" Nebraska. The result was that Bartley's partner was sent to the United States senate and the other heavenly twin turned out a mere ward politician who was as full of malice as a green persimon or pucker. No man who is not a partisan lunatic can fail to see that every veto of the governor was based on malice. Not a veto was directed toward any institution which was under republican control. The supreme court was fusion, the state university was fusion and the Peru normal school was under a board that was fusion. This governor, that the republicans gave us, undertook to wreck all of these. If he had regarded the taxpayers, which is only a pretence, he would have begun on his own office where there are a greater lot of idle tax-eaters than in any other institution of the state—men and women who draw big salaries and sit around two-thirds of their time and gossip and berate the populists.

The glory of the fusion administration was that it doubled the distribution to the common schools and provided increased funds for the university which under its management nearly doubled in number of students. Now comes this republican governor and undertakes to wreck this institution which is the glory of the state and which is educating the coming generation as no previous generation ever was educated, by cutting off \$90,500 of its income, when that act will not reduce taxation one cent.

This republican governor is a national banker. His solicitude seems to be for the bankers instead of the struggling thousands of young men and women who are trying, by the closest economy and the endurance of many privations, to get an education. The \$90,500 will be doled out to the bankers without interest, for the tax that produced it was levied two years ago and the money will come into the hands of the state treasurer, just the same as if no veto had been made.

Here is the foundation for some more Bartley business. By the decision of a fusion court and the new methods of doing business in the state treasurer's office introduced by a populist treasurer, it will hardly be possible for a republican treasurer to get in his hands six or seven hundred thousand dollars of current funds for the banks to handle with a rake-off for the treasurer. This veto of Dietrich's will provide about a hundred thousand dollars for the old plan that was practiced by republican treasurers for twenty-five years. Dietrich is a banker.

The Independent has no hesitancy in declaring that this business from top to bottom and from beginning to end is as foul and disreputable a scheme as was ever entered into by the republican party in this state, even in the darkest days of its corrupt career. The plea put up that the tax levied for the university together with its other sources of income would not have paid the amount appropriated is false and the men who are making such excuse are doing it to cover up as foul a piece of work as was ever concocted by Mosher, Outcalt, Bartley, Dorgan and the rest of the gang who ran the party a few years ago. They robbed the schools then and they are laying the foundation to do the same thing again.

This money that Dietrich has withheld from the university was levied for paying the expenses of that institution and can be used for no other purpose. Dietrich cannot take it away from the university. He can only withhold it for a while. It must finally be expended for the purposes for which it was levied. All that he could do was to turn it over to the banks to be used without interest by them for two years, except what rake-off they may have to pay to the treasurer to get it.

It is very evident that we are to have the old reign of corruption over again. The foundation has been laid for such performance by the republican governor. Let it come. The people voted for it with their eyes wide open. That is what they wanted and what the majority want, they must have.

There is one thing that is sure to make the angry passions rise in this editorial heart. It is that phrase "class conscious" which the socialists are so fond of using. There is neither sense nor reason in it. Many socialists are rich men, in fact they are the only ones who give life to the thing. It is not a class movement, for there are no classes in this country so distinctly formed as to differentiate them from all others. When such classes are formed, there will be trouble ahead. The Independent don't believe in classes. It believes in the brotherhood of mankind.

POLITICAL COMMISSIONERS

After the Nebraska legislature got through with burning the heavenly twins, an act was announced that is the most disgraceful thing that ever was placed on a statute book. It practically does away with the office of attorney general and creates a commission to endure as long as republicanism continues to curse this state, authorized to compromise all the suits that have heretofore or may hereafter

A TRIUMPH OF POPULISM

Several states have during the last winter adopted the referendum, numberless cities have made provision for the public ownership of city utilities, but the greatest triumph of populism has been the adoption of its financial theories by the republican national administration. The increase in the price of farm products and the consequent prosperity of the farmers has all resulted from putting populist theories into practice. If there had been a populist president and congress, but one thing would have been done differently from what the national administration has done. The populists would have put out the same amount of paper money, but instead of issuing it through the banks, they would have issued it direct by the national government. The effect upon prices has been exactly the same, the only difference has been that some millions of profits have gone to the national bankers instead of to the whole people. As regards the coinage of silver, McKinley has coined more silver each month than the populists ever asked to be coined and he is still keeping it up. The tremendous output of gold has added to the circulation still more dollars. The result has been just what populists said it would be.

HEARST'S FOOL EDITORS

If there is a set of men anywhere on earth who can make bigger fools of themselves than some of Hearst's editors, they certainly do not have a residence in the United States. Hearst's papers all claim to be democratic and during the last campaign they supported Bryan after a fashion. Half the time they are writing pure socialism and the other half trying to tie up with plutocracy. Last week one of them in speaking of the democratic party wrote as follows:

"For four years it was led to absolutely certain and overwhelming defeat by preposterous follies having no resemblances to the ancient and true democratic faith. One was the free silver craze, which proposed a dreamy and impossible monetary system for a nation of sane people, and the other was the so-called anti-imperialism that would surrender the Philippines without an effort to solve the problem they offered for the benefit of humanity and civilization."

Then he followed that in the same column with the following proposed platform for the Cleveland-Hill democracy:

"First—Public ownership of public franchises.

"The values created by the community should belong to the community.

"Second—Destruction of criminal trusts.

"No monopolization of the national resources by lawless private combinations.

"Third—A graduated income tax.

"Every citizen to contribute to the support of the government according to his means, and not according to his necessities.

"Fourth—Election of senators by the people.

"The senate, now becoming the private property of corporations and bosses, to be made truly representative and the state legislatures to be redeemed from recurring scandals.

"Fifth—National, state and municipal improvement of the public school system.

"As the duties of citizenship are both general and local, every government, general and local, should do its share toward fitting every individual to perform them.

"Sixth—Currency reform.

"All the nation's money to be issued by the nation's government, and its supply to be regulated by the people, and not by the banks."

That sort of a platform would have a jolly time with the Cleveland-Hill crowd. Fancy Dave Hill advocating an income tax or the Stuffed Prophet declaring for the greenbacks! The object of the whole was to catch the gudgeons and get them into old Grover's camp.

Last week all the great dailies ran a big fake about there being five or six hundred million dollars of gold in the treasury. Any man of common sense who saw it, knew that it was a fake, an absurdity and an utter impossibility. Yet the editor of The Independent met a republican of some prominence in the state who at once began to brag about McKinley and his six hundred million of gold. The Independent has come to the conclusion that there is nothing too absurd for a republican to believe if he sees it in his party paper. The official statement of the treasury department on April 8 was: "Treasury balance in the general fund, exclusive of \$150,000,000 gold reserve in the division of redemption, shows: Available cash balance, \$161,075,773; gold, \$97,232,628."

THE ASPHALT WAR

In 1897 certain Venezuelans got a grant of an asphalt lake, La Felicidad, and sold it to what is known as the Warner-Quinlan syndicate, of Syracuse, N. Y. The Asphalt Trust claims that La Felicidad is a part of its concession. The Warner-Quinlan syndicate denies it. President Castro of Venezuela agrees with the Warner-Quinlan syndicate. Frank Loomis, the United States minister to Venezuela and a close personal friend of Carnegie Asphalt Trust's Venezuelan representative, agrees with the Asphalt Trust. Both the trust and the syndicate are controlled by conspicuous republican politicians. But the trust has as its president General Francis V. Greene, whose standing with the ad-

ministration is indicated by the fact that he was grand marshal of the inaugural parade on Mar. 4 last.

The trust had influence enough to send a squadron of the United States navy into Venezuelan waters for the purpose of intimidating that government. But it stood its ground and now the United States minister to Venezuela has been ordered home. The asphalt lake which these parties are fighting over is said to be valued at \$10,000,000. The Independent has no idea but the trust will get it, even if McKinley has to go to war. Let us all whoop it up for the asphalt war. "My country right or wrong." If you say a word against it you are a copperhead and a traitor.

FIGHTING BRITISH BATTLES

Everybody knows that England could not have carried on the war as long as she has without the war supplies that McKinley has furnished her armies. He is making a precedent that may some day be used for the destruction of this government.

It is claimed by the Boer sympathizers, among whom is General Samuel Pearson, formerly commissary general of the Boer forces, that Great Britain is using New Orleans as the base of operations against the South African republic and the Orange Free State, two nations with which the United States is at peace.

A case has been brought in the United States court at New Orleans to prevent the further shipment of goods contraband of war by the British government and a ship loaded with mules has been held up by the courts. The American mule has proved to be the best fighter that the English have employed in South Africa. It is true that at first they were inclined to sympathize with the Boers and a victory was gained by the burghers because the American mule refused to obey orders. That was in the beginning of the war, but of late they have been the mainstay of the British army.

Cavalry horses and army mules are surely contraband of war. McKinley is setting the precedent that a nation can furnish goods contraband of war to a people making war on a friendly nation. Great Britain will be quick to take advantage of that if it is her interest to do so when the United States gets into a fight with any other nation. McKinley is just as much fighting British battles against the Boers as if he sent two or three regiments of United States troops over there.

CLEWS ON WALL STREET

Henry Clews says that "Wall street is the most sensitive barometer of the country's well being." That has been the statement for the last thirty years. It is important to keep such a statement constantly before the people. Then congress can be induced to legislate for the benefit of Wall street. The statement, if meant for the truth, should read: "Wall street is the barometer that indicates the prosperity or bad luck of the most vicious set of gamblers that ever cursed the world." There is some legitimate business done in Wall street, but a hundred times as much actual gambling. They simply meet and bet on the rise and fall of stocks. At the close of the day they settle up their losses and gains and if not dead broke, try their luck again the next day. Stock exchanges are the curse of the world. More money is invested in gambling in the United States than in any other one business. There are many large banks whose business is almost exclusively with gamblers.

Clews has progressed far enough to say: "The contraction of the circulating medium depresses prices." When the populists said that in 1893 and afterwards, Clews denounced it as idiosyncrasy. He and his gang of gamblers were at that time engaged in curtailing the circulating medium, or in Wall street phrase they wanted to bear the market and gather in the farms and other property upon which they had mortgages, so as to sell them out at enormously increased prices as soon as they could get a president that would, under their auspices, flood the country with paper and silver money. As soon as McKinley was seated he went at it and has kept it up ever since.

Wall street is organized to make money out of money. The rest of the country is engaged in making money by labor applied to land. Washington ever since 1870 has stood by Wall street and legislated to suit the gamblers while labor has been sheared time and again. They are now getting ready to play the old game over again. They will soon be denying the proposition that a contraction of the currency depresses prices. The mullet heads will all line up with Wall street and there is no use to try to prevent them.

As the republican hands over the money to pay his taxes this year, he should be exceedingly happy. He can rejoice that the state has been "redeemed" and that a large part of the money that he hands over will be used by the state treasurer and bankers to speculate on during the next two years. If that don't make him happy, what will? Their governor and United States senator planned it all out for them.

THE SUGAR TRUST

It begins to look as if the sugar trust went a little too far when it ordered the secretary of the treasury to put an extra tax on Russian sugar and a good many men who have never before dared to say a word against that monopoly are beginning to make strenuous protests. They have been whipped in in the past for fear that their special privileges might be assailed. Now that their trade has been ruined by the greed of the sugar trust, they have nothing to lose, so they speak out. Several technical trade journals have lately been making hot protests against the destruction of our trade with Russia for the benefit of one trust. In one of these magazines, Mr. Alexander Hume Ford describes the boundless opportunities for American energy in Russia in supplying the needs of that continental empire for machinery, railroads, bridges and manufactured goods of every description—all depending, of course, on access to the market upon such reasonable terms as the sugar trust is destroying. Already there are a thousand Americans in St. Petersburg engaged in making openings for American products in Russia. And the editor comments: "America is fast coming to see that what she needs is not paternalism and political meddling, but wider markets."

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ROSEWATER CONTINUES TO MAKE REMARKS.

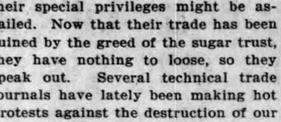
Here are some of them: "Scandalous appointments in the federal service and a reckless disregard of public sentiment on issues vital to the people." "It is acknowledged on all hands that the work of the legislature has been disappointing in many respects." "Disreputable and incompetent public officials in every branch of the public service must be weeded out. The barnacles and leeches that have been fastened upon the federal service, casting odium upon the party, should be pried loose from the crib and decent, reputable, active republicans given their places." They pried Ed Sizer loose down in Porto Rico, but they immediately glued him fast to the oil inspectorship at the state house.

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