The Nebraska Independent.

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SCIENTIFIC POPULISM

The Scientists Assemble at Philadelphia and Our University Given the Place of Honor

The fifth annual meeting of the American academy of political and social science met in Philadelphia April 13th and continued in session for two days. There was a full attendance. The general topic for discussion was "America's Race Problems," and the many phases of that subject were ably discussed by men well known the country over. The annual address was delivered by Prof. Edward A. Ross, formerly of Leland Stanford, jr., university, and now a member of the faculty of the University of Nebraska, who spoke on "The Causes of Race Superiority." He spoke in part as follows:

"The superiorities that, at a given time, one people may display over other peoples, are not necessarily racial. Physical inferiorities that disappear as the peoples are equalized in diet and dwelling; mental inferiorities that disappear when the peoples are leveled up in respect to culture and means of education, are due not to race, but to condition, not to blood, but to surroundings. In accounting for disparities among peoples there are, in fact, two opposite errors into which we may fall. There is the equality fallacy inherited from the earlier thought of the last century, which belittles race differences and has a robust faith in the power of intercourse and school instruction to life up a backward folk to the level of the best. Then there is the counter fallacy grown up since Darwin, which exaggerates the race factor and regards the actual differences of peoples as hereditary and fixed.

"The first cause of race superiority to which I invite your attention is a physiological trait, namely, climatic adaptability. Just now it is a grave question whether the flourishing and teeming peoples of the north temperate zone can provide outlets for their surplus population in the rich but undeveloped lands of the tropics. Their superiority, economic and military, over the peoples under the vertical sun is beyond cavil. But can they assert and profit by this superiority save by imposing on the natives of the tropics the odious and demoralizing servile relation? Can the white man work and multiply in the tropics or will his role be limited to commercial and industrial exploitation at a safe distance by means of a changing male contingent of soldiers, officials, business agents planters and overseers?

"The answer is not yet sure, but the facts bearing on acclimatization are not comforting to our race. Immunity from the fevers that waste men in hot humid climates seems to be in inverse ratio to energy. The French are more successful in tropical settlements than the Germans or the English. The Spanish, Portuguese and Italians surpass the French in almost equal measure. When it comes to settling Africa instead of merely exploring or subduing it, the peoples may unexpectedly change their roles. With all their energy and their numbers the Anglo-Saxons appear to be physiologically inelastic and incapable of making of Guam or the Philippines a home such as they have made in New Zealand or Minnesota. In the tropics their very virtues—their push, their uncompromising standards, their aversion to intermarriage with the natives—are their destruction.

"Ominous on the other hand is the extraordinary power of accommodation enjoyed by the Mongolians. Says Professor Ripley: 'The Chinese succeed in Guina where the white man cannot live, and they thrive from Siberia where the mean temperature is below freezing, to Singapore on the equator.' There are even some who believe that the Chinaman is destined to dispossess the Malay in southwestern Asia and islands of the Pacific, and the Indian in the tropical parts of So. America.

"Without a social ladder, without infection from a leisure class that keys up its standard of comfort, a body of yeomen settling in a new and fertile land will be content with the simplicity and rude plenty. A certain sluggishness prevails now among the Boers as it prevailed among the first settlers beyond the Alleghenies. If, on the other hand, there is a social ladder, but it is occupied by those of a military or hereditary position, as in the Spanish communities of the southwest, there is likewise no stimulus to energy. But if vigorous men from new communities in close enough touch with rich and old communities to accept their exacting standards of comfort, without at the same time accepting their social ranking, each man has the greatest possible incentive to improve his condition. Such has been the relation of America to England, and of the west to the east.

"This is why America spells opportunity. Inspired by hope and ambition the last two generations of Americans have amazed the world by the breathless speed with which they have subdued the western half of the continent, and filled the wilderness with homes and cities. Never has the world seen such prodigies of labor, such miracles of enterprise as the creation within a single lifetime of a vast ordered, civilized life between the Mississippi and the Pacific.

"It is certain that if we venture to apply to the American people of today the series of tests of superiority I have set forth to you at such length, the result is most gratifying to our pride. It is true that our average of energy and character is lowered by the presence in the south of several millions of an inferior race. It is true that the last twenty years have diluted us with masses of fecund but beaten humanity from the hovels of far Lombardy or Galicia. It is true that our free land is gone and our opportunities will henceforth attract immigrants chiefly from the humbler strata of east European peoples. Yet while there are here problems that only high statesmanship can solve, I believe there is at the present moment no people in the world that is man for man equal to the Americans in capacity and efficiency. We stand now at the moment when the process of selective migrations has completed its work. The tonic selections of the frontier have done for us all they can.

"Free institutions and universal education have keyed to the highest tension the ambitions of the American. He has been chiefly farmer and is only beginning to expose himself to the deteriorating influences of city and factory. He is now probably at the climax of his energy and every thing promises that in the centuries to come he is destined to play a brilliant and leading role on the stage of history."

Samuel McCune Lindsay, president of the academy, preceded Professor Ross with an address reviewing the work of the academy during the past year.

At the opening session at which Talcott Williams of Philadelphia presided, the principal theme was "The Races of the Pacific." Those who spoke were Dr. Titus Munson Coan of New York on "The Native of Hawaii." The Rev. Charles C. Pierce, D. D., on "The Race of the Philippines," and the Rev. O. C. Miller, D. D., chaplain U. S. A.

The speakers and guests were tendered a reception by the ladies' reception committee and the members of the academy.

This very condensed telegraphic report, much fairer than what we usually find in the reports of the Associated press, will be interesting reading to the old, fighting populists of this state. In it they will find the scientific statement of the theories for which they have been fighting. They believe that the environment makes the man, that the city and the factory are distinctly deteriorating influences upon the race and the resultant commercialism which has been the influence controlling all departments of the government for the last decade will result in disaster. The greed for gold and glory has had no followers in the populist party. No populist ever believed in the extreme view of heredity advocated by some pseudo scientists. They have claimed that the wretches of the slums were made so by their environment, that that kind of men were bred by economic conditions, and if placed in the right sort of environment they would become energetic, self-supporting citizens. The most that they ever would allow to heredity was a strong tendency. They have said that the concentration of wealth in a few hands and the congestion of population in great cities was producing degeneration. Therefore in their political action they have opposed the concentration of wealth, discouraged the flight from the farm to the city and all the plutocratic tendencies of the times. Now come the scientists preaching the same doctrines. They are heard, whereas the populists were called lunatics.

We have believed in the equality before the law of every man, but not in the foolish idea that all men are equal in physical or mental endowments. We have demanded equal opportunity, not special privileges. These scientists who assembled at Philadelphia grant the fundamental principles of populism, make them the premises upon which they base their arguments. Call it science and it is respectable. Call it populism and it is lunacy.

THEY WON'T DO IT

The Cuban Constitutional Convention Rejects the Platt Resolutions—What Next?

By a vote of 24 to 2 the Cuban constitutional convention on Saturday formally rejected the "Platt amendment." This action was preceded by the voting down of the two compromise measures proposed by the two members of the convention who have been throughout disposed not to hold the government of the United States to the letter of the Teller resolution.

This action is most significant of Cuban public sentiment. If the members of that convention, elected as they were under American supervision, and acting as they were with General Wood in direct contact with them day by day, voted thus overwhelmingly, what must be the feeling of the Cuban people?

The claim to a part of the island of Cuba itself, the Isle of Pines, which has always been a division of the province of Havana.

The right to interfere in Cuba's internal affairs when we might see fit—as if we would not interfere without permission if it became vitally necessary to our own welfare so to do.

The Cuban convention's action does not mean that the "negotiation" is closed. But it does mean—it is a warning—that negotiation should be conducted as negotiation, not as dictation, and with politeness and forbearance; that the administration can get nothing from Cuba with the consent and approval of the Cuban people by using thinly veiled threats delivered by a military man with his hand upon the hilt of his sword.—New York World.

The republican redeemer legislature has provided for plunging the state a quarter of a million dollars further in debt. Under an efficient and economical government such as the populists gave the people, the state would have been out of debt in five years and the common schools and university would have prospered and become the pride of the whole nation. The last legislature was the most incompetent that ever assembled at the capitol. The republican party has proved that it is not fit to govern.

LET'S PAY THE DEBT

Ways and Means Committee Makes a Final Appeal to All Friends of Reform. Let Us Act Promptly.

To Contributors and to those who have not contributed: As secretary of ways and means committee, I have been laboring diligently ever since the 24th day of last January attempting to accomplish what was generally conceded to be an uphill undertaking: i. e., the collection of funds to pay off a campaign debt, after the campaign had closed—and the election gone against us. It was a matter of "paying for a dead horse," as the saying goes; and I was frequently encouraged by such remarks as: "you will find it like pulling eye teeth." Yet, notwithstanding, I have lost no opportunity of calling to the attention of our people that this debt must be paid if we are to maintain our organization as a party. It was contracted near the close of the last campaign when it was simply a question of go in debt or close up headquarters, and, although "pay as you go" is a good motto, circumstances sometimes arise when one must go whether he can pay or not. Occasionally the action of the state committee is criticised and doubt is expressed as to the wisdom of its having contracted certain of the items. Such criticism is proper in its place—but should not be used to prevent payment of the claims. Whether any certain expenditure is wise or foolish is wholly a matter of personal judgment—and it is difficult to find any considerable number of persons who would agree on everything. Certain it is, that had our campaign been successful there would not now be any questions raised as to whether the expenditures were wise or otherwise. It is sufficient to know that there are debts unpaid and owing by the state committee; that these debts were contracted in good faith; and that, with possibly a few minor exceptions, all the claims are just and ought to be paid. Now is not the time for "post-mortems;" it is a time for action. Something must be done—and done quickly—if we clear up the debts of the last campaign before another is upon us. Every cent of the debts could be paid off, and a snug little sum placed in the committee treasury for the coming campaign, if every man who voted for Governor Poynter last fall would "drop a nickel in the slot." The same thing could be accomplished if one out of every five of those voters gave a silver quarter. Or, 5,600 of them, giving a dollar apiece, could swing it. It it possible that there are not 6,000 populists in Nebraska who are able and willing to give each a dollar to maintain the party organization?

I find by consulting my records that since the 1st day of February I have sent out nearly 11,000 letters and circular letters; and, including this week's paper, nearly 20,000 copies of The Independent—all for the purpose of keeping the voters in touch with the work being done by our committee. The table which appears in another column shows that out of 7,466 letters sent to individuals, asking a personal contribution, 821 responses have been received up to last week (or 875 up to Tuesday noon). Understand, this is not the total number of contributors; frequently one person sends in for three or four of his neighbors, to whom letters had not been sent, and this counts as but one response. Something over 6,000 persons to whom these letters were sent, have failed to respond, whether on account of inability or disinclination to contribute, or because of carelessness and a disposition to put off until tomorrow what ought to be done today. I am unable to say. Are YOU one of these 6,000?

And now a word as to who ought to pay and who ought not: There has been a growing tendency in our party the past few years to allow the office-holders to bear most of the burden of making the state campaigns. It makes little difference now just what caused this tendency. The question is: is it a good tendency? Now, it seems to me that every member of the people's party who is benefitted by having that party in power, ought to be willing to contribute according to his ability toward maintaining the party organization and fighting the party's battles. Office-holders certainly ought to contribute liberally toward keeping up the organization which placed them in office—but there is such a thing as going to extremes in the matter. The farmer or business man who is benefitted by economical populist government ought to be willing to contribute something also. And, as we have seen, if only one-fifth of our voters should each contribute a silver quarter, the burden could be borne without being felt by anyone.

The difficult question, however, is to reach the voters. True, we have an organization in nearly every voting precinct in the state—have something over 1,400 precinct committeemen; and it would seem that it ought not to be a difficult task to reach 20,000 to 25,000 of our voters through these committeemen, and do it quickly. But let the inexperienced man try it! He will be astonished to learn that not more than 30 or 40 of them will answer his communication in the first three weeks and after that the replies will come in in such a straggling manner that he will give up hope and agree with me that for first-class procrastination, no man living excels the average populist precinct committeeman. Apparently about 80 per cent of these committeemen believe they were selected for dress parade purposes, to look wise, and talk knowingly—but work! Never. I freely admit that we have a goodly number of energetic committeemen—and my remarks are not intended to apply to them.

There is but one successful way to raise a campaign fund by popular subscription: that is to go directly to the people themselves and not depend upon a committeeman to do the work, unless you have personal knowledge that he is a worker. Acting on the knowledge gained in a futile attempt to get the precinct committeemen to work (I speak of the thousand or more who have done nothing—absolutely nothing—and not of the comparatively small number who did nobly), I sent out the 7,466 letters mentioned in the table appended. Eleven per cent of responses is very fair—but in this particular matter there is no reason why fully 50 per cent should not respond. The habit of putting off until tomorrow what ought to be done today is one which has a firm hold on thousands of people—it is nearly as vexatious as the drink habit. I firmly believe that 3,000 letters containing contributions ought to reach me before the first of May, if only those who are delaying will act promptly. Are YOU one of the procrastinators?

I am pleased to see that Brother Eric Johnson of the Saunders County New Era, Wahoo, has taken up the campaign fund matter in his county. The very first week he pushed Saunders county to the top of the list. He has voluntarily offered to donate one-half of every new, paid-in-advance, yearly subscription received before the 25th of this month. Saunders county populists ought to take advantage of this liberal offer. It kills several birds with one stone: gives the subscriber a good newspaper; gives the New Era another good subscriber; and helps out the campaign fund. Populist papers in other counties might take a hint from this.

In this connection, I have made arrangements with The Independent Publishing Company for a similar deal on new subscriptions received for The Independent. Every populist ought to take as many reform papers as his means will justify and he can find time to read. I should say, (1) that he ought to take his local reform county paper; (2) that he ought to take the Nebraska Independent. If you are not a subscriber to The Independent, send me a dollar and the paper will be mailed you regularly for one year; fifty cents of that amount will be placed in the campaign fund. If, however, you are a subscriber, get your neighbor to take it; send me his dollar (or yours) and have him read the doctrine that cures mulletheadism. Use the blank which appears elsewhere under this head.

In conclusion: This is the last vigorous effort I shall make in behalf of the ways and means committee, because other duties now demand my attention. The weekly reports, however, will be continued as long as receipts justify using the space. There is no good reason why at least a thousand new subscriptions should fail to reach me in the next two weeks. If you have already contributed, speak to your neighbor who has not done so. If you have neglected the matter—well, better late than never; the eleventh hour will do, but don't wait till high noon.

With none but the kindliest feelings for the eight hundred and more correspondents I have had the past three months, and urging a prompt response from you, if you intend to respond, I am, yours for success,

CHARLES Q. DE FRANCE,
Sec'y Ways and Means Com.
1836 So. 25th St., Lincoln, Neb.

CORRECTIONS.

In report of March 14, deduct 50c from Madison county and add to Pierce for Elmer Saltz contribution.

In report of April 11, deduct 50c from Franklin county, account of Jas. Carpenter contribution. (Carpenter sent $2, but being an old subscriber, $1 was for the fund and $1 for the paper, instead of $1.50 for the fund as credited.)

RECEIPTS.

Previously acknowledged	$863 31
To Tuesday noon	41 80
Total	$905 11

BY COUNTIES.

(Contributions of 25c each, unless otherwise specified.)

Adams—Previously acknowledged, $11.37; collection of $3 by M. B. Foote, $1.10, Ayr, for Ayr township, (C. W. Foote, G. C. Foote, J. Sheets, J. C. Woodworth, J. A. Frank, A. Gardner, H. Boelke, W. H. Brown, 5c, E. Smith, 5c, E. N. George, 5c,) all Ayr. Total, $14.37.

Antelope—$33.65; no receipts.

Boone—$22.75; no receipts.

Box Butte—Previously acknowledged $7.83; collection of $1.25 by Frank Caha, Lawn, (John Lortscher, John Caha, Joseph Caha, 50c, Lawn; Edward Larson, Hemingford). Total, $9.08.

Boyd—Previously acknowledged, $3.75; "Cash," Lynch. Total, $4.

Buffalo—Previously acknowledged, $4.55; F. Stark, 50c, Nantasket. Total, $5.05.

Burt—$10.05; no receipts.

Butler—Previously acknowledged, $15.33; Lewis Swanson, Surprise; B. Boyers, Ware, $1 for Independent collection. Total, $16.08.

Cass—Previously acknowledged, $9.75; collection of $3 by J. W. Hollenbeck, Elmwood, for Stove Creek precinct, (no names submitted); collection of $1 by Z. S. Welliever (Ingerson, Seth Covel, Sours) all Weeping Water; also $1 for Independent collection, paper to be sent William Stockham. Total, $14.25.

Cedar—$2.78; no receipts.

Chase—25c; no receipts.

Cherry—$9.25; no receipts.

Cheyenne—$1.35; no receipts.

Clay—Previously acknowledged, $26.43; J. W. Smith, Ong; collection of $1.25 by Frank Lange (Henry Weber, John Buttell, Herman Wachter, E. Fleming) all Sutton. Total, $26.93.

Colfax—$2; no receipts.

Cuming—$44.50; no receipts.

Custer—Previously acknowledged, $37.95; Andrew Allen, 50c, Westerville. Total, $38.45.

Dakota—Previously acknowledged, $2.95; M. B. Slocum, $1, South Sioux City. Total, $3.95.

Dawes—$5.50; no receipts.

Dawson—Previously acknowledged, $5.50; Otto Wiederanders, watchmaker and jeweler, Gothenburg. Total, $5.75.

Dixon—$2.50; no receipts.

Dodge—$3.50; no receipts.

Douglas—$3.50; no receipts.

Dundy—Previously acknowledged, $1; G. W. Parnell, 50c, Benkelman. Total, $1.50.

Fillmore—$15.75; no receipts.

Franklin—$10.75; deduct 50c; total, $10.25.

Furnas—Previously acknowledged, $6.75; Wm. T. Manahan, Arapahoe; Jeff McKown, 40c, Hendley; Wm. Askey, 50c, Oxford. Total, $7.90.

Gage—$3.30; no receipts.

Garfield—50c; no receipts.

Gosper—Previously acknowledged, $4.90; S. W. Spring, 50c, Bertrand. Total, $5.40.

Greeley—$4.50; no receipts.

Hall—Previously acknowledged, $24.25; E. Whitehead, Cairo, $2 for Independent collection (himself and W. J. Porter). Total, $25.25.

Hamilton—Previously acknowledged $13.75; collection of $1 by J. L. Evans, Aurora, for Orville precinct; Chas. Fedderson, Hans J. Olsen, 50c, Marquette. Total, $15.50.

Harlan—Previously acknowledged, $16; J. M. Shull, Ragan; Wm. Doak, Republican City. Total, $16.50.

Hayes—Previously acknowledged, $1.25; Geo. J. Hahn, Hudson. Total, $1.50.

Hitchcock—Previously acknowledged, $1; N. T. Hall, 50c, G. W. Beujamin, 50c, Trenton. Total, $2.

Holt—$10.25; no receipts.

Howard—$24.45; no receipts.

Jefferson—Previously acknowledged, $13.55; F. M. James, 20c, Powell. Total, $13.75.

Johnson—9.05; no receipts.

Kearney—$47.50; no receipts.

Keith—Previously acknowledged, $1; A. Baker, 70c, Ogalalla. Total, $1.70.

Keya Paha—$2.50; no receipts.

Kimball—25c; no receipts.

Knox—$10.60; no receipts.

Lancaster—Previously acknowledged, $30.75; collection of $2 by Gideon Purbaugh, 50c, (C. L. Momenson, 50c, John Buckley, 50c, Levi Wilhelm, 50c,) all Havelock—for North Bluff precinct; Nels Rasmussen, Lincoln. Collection of $1.50 by Owsley Wilson (lawyer), $1, (John Love, W. L. Breese) all Lincoln. Total, $34.50.

Lincoln—$2.30; no receipts.

Loup—Previously acknowledged, $2.50; Lyman Lydall, Lucius Lydall, Taylor. Total, $3.

McPherson—25c; no receipts.

Madison—$3.50; deduct 50c; total $3.

Merrick—$3.25; no receipts.

Nance—$7; no receipts.

Nemaha—Previously acknowledged, $7.50; Joseph Leahy, Julian; contribution of $1.50 from Nemaha precinct by C. W. Roberts, F. M. Anderson, Wm. Hawxby, committeemen, Nemaha. Total, $9.25.

Nuckolls—Previously acknowledged, $3.75; R. N. Simonton, Superior. Total, $4.

Otoe—$17.35; no receipts.

Pawnee—Previously acknowledged, $7.75; collection of $1.50 by Barney Bergman (C. Holle, Herman Soellner, C. Hungath, Albert S. Cox, W. L. Tiller) all Pawnee City. Total, $9.25.

Phelps—Previously acknowledged, $5.75; H. Pickering, $1, Atlanta, for Industry township; A. White, Loomis; Chas. E. Staberg, Westmark. Total, $7.25.

Pierce—$1.25; add 50c; total, $1.75.

Platte—Previously acknowledged, $11; collection of $1 by J. W. James, 50c (E. D. James, F. S. James) all Columbus. Total, $12.

Polk—$37.80; no receipts.

Red Willow—Previously acknowledged, $6.55; add 50c for Steinmetz subscription; Chas. Hopt, 50c, Cambridge; B. A. Jones, 30c, Indianola. Total, $7.85.

Richardson—$9.60; no receipts.

Rock—25c; no receipts.

Saline—Previously acknowledged, $20.15; collection of $4.25 by Peter Johnson, Wilber. Total, $24.40.

Sarpy—$8; no receipts.

Saunders—Previously acknowledged, $43.95; F. O. Olson, Colon; collection of $3.50 by Eric Johnson, editor Saunders County New Era, Wahoo, (J. A. Olson, $1, Colon; A. J. Johnson, 50c, Mead; John Hansen, 50c, Wahoo; Olof Mattsen, 50c, Ceresco; $1 as half of two new subscriptions to the New Era). Hurrah for Saunders—she heads the list. Total, $47.70.

Scotts Bluff—$2; no receipts.

Seward—$18.50; no receipts.

Sheridan—$1.95; no receipts.

Sherman—Previously acknowledged, $5.50; Chas. F. Krehmke, Rockville, $1 for Independent collection. Total, $6.

Stanton—$7.50; no receipts.

Thayer—$3.40; no receipts.

Thurston—75c; no receipts.

Valley—$6.95; no receipts.

Washington—$37.11; no receipts.

Wayne—$4.55; no receipts.

Webster—Previously acknowledged, $16.90; A. D. Baker, Blue Hill. Total, $17.15.

Wheeler—Previously acknowledged, $6.96; John Ferguson, 50c, Brewster. Total, $7.46.

York—$32.15; no receipts.

Unknown—50c; no receipts.

TABLE.

Showing the quota which each county ought to pay, calculated on the basis of 5c for each vote cast for Governor Poynter last fall, dropping the odd change and making it even dollars; the amount which has been received by the

(Continued On Page Two.)

CAMPAIGN FUND SPECIAL OFFER.

C. Q. DeFrance, Lincoln, Neb.

Enclosed find $....., for which send The Nebraska Independent to the following names and addresses one year, and place one-half of said sum in the People's Party Campaign Fund, credit to..... County.

Name of Sender.....

P. O.....; Precinct.....

NAMES	POSTOFFICE	STATE

Modern Strategy

Mr. James N. Miller, writing to a Chicago paper in regard to the capture of Aguinaldo, says:

"During the latter part of the civil war a company of confederate soldiers dashed into Cumberland, Md., one night and captured Generals Crook and Kelly, taking them from their beds at a hotel. It was a deed of daring bravery, well planned and ably executed. But when General Robert E. Lee heard of it he ordered the prisoners sent back to our lines, saying he did not approve of this style of warfare. He did not consider it honorable.

"Admitting all the reckless bravery of General Funston's exploit in capturing Aguinaldo, in what respect did it differ from that of the capture of these Union generals? The story of the recent capture says: 'They were now so weak that it was necessary to send to Aguinaldo's camp for food. Aguinaldo dispatched supplies and directed that the American prisoners be kindly treated.' After having their lives thus preserved, they were enabled to march on and meet their preserver under an assumed guise, and by false pretense capture him at a time when he was unarmed.

"Perhaps General Lee was wrong in his notion of military honor."

Degeneracy

The populists have constantly been enunciating some very weighty scientific truths. The only attention that they attracted from the would be wise, resulted in denunciation and the only reply that was made was to call the populists lunatics. It seems that when a man who has "Prof." before his name and a long list of capital letters after it says the same things, that is an altogether different matter. Then it becomes science and is no longer lunacy. Prof. Max Haushofer, the eminent Vienese sociologist, says: "I am not an alarmist, but am free to say that in the course of time it will be impossible to provide enough insane asylums, jails and hospitals for the degenerated and useless, if people are not made to understand that the highest service that can possibly be rendered to humanity is to give to the world well-behaved, intelligent, sound and active children."

Ten years ago populists talked in the same way and said the same thing. But they were called long-haired, wild-eyed and crazy. Now the most eminent scientists are saying what they said ten years ago.

THE PORTO RICANS

A Case Where the Censorship Didn't Work Satisfactorily—Awful Suffering Described by a Missionary

Porto Rico is too near our own shore to work the censorship satisfactorily. When the laboring men of that island sent a man to petition the Emperor of Porto Rico for relief for the starving inhabitants with a document signed by 6,000 of the inhabitants, all that it was thought necessary to do was for a carpet-bag official to denounce him as a disturber and walking delegate. But other things are creeping into the papers that have an extremely ugly look. Rev. E. S. Tead, who is the Porto Rican representative of the American missionary society, reports as follows:

"In some of the towns where the greatest poverty exists Spaniards live who are worth all the way from $100,000 to $1,000,000, but they are not touched by this condition of the poor, nor are efforts made to alleviate distress. Beggary is common and in some of the stores little baskets of coppers on the shelf hold the amount which the merchant intends to dispense that day. All sorts of bodily deformities and disease are displayed by these beggars, such as blindness, twisted feet, dropsy, sores, bruised legs, paralysis, women carried in carts or hobbling along on their haunches or men seated by the wayside holding up a maimed limb and begging for a pittance.

"The need of the island is a general hospital equipped with modern appliances. A hospital could be built and equipped at comparatively small expense. Dr. Atkins, a woman connected with the Presbyterian church of San Juan, has twenty-five to forty calls a day from patients who need hospital treatment, many of whose lives are lost because of the lack of it."

The plutocratic press has a fashion of denouncing every private citizen who reports a fact that interferes with their methods of exploitation in such vituperative terms that ordinary men are deterred from bearing testimony. A private letter was sent to the editor of The Independent written by an American citizen who was in Porto Rico under the most positive instructions that it was not to be printed or the name of the writer made known. He says that he could not stand the tirade of foul words that would be poured out upon him if the letter was published and that his wife is in delicate health and such abuse would endanger her life. The readers of The Independent can rely upon the fact that there is a most horrible condition of things in Porto Rico, that hundreds are dying for the lack of the most common necessaries of life. Meantime the Porto Ricans are taxed as no community in the United States was ever taxed. McKinley is playing the same game there that the British have played in India.

The Landless

It is pitiful to see the struggle for a little land upon which to labor and die. The contest for the land that is to be opened for settlement in the Indian territory is likely to be so fierce that various propositions are being submitted to the government to avoid the terrible contest that is sure to ensue. The Oklahoma State Register has the following upon that subject:

"Thousands of petitions are sent to the government praying to the 'powers that be' not to open up the new country with a horse race. Most of the homeless petitioners ask that the 160 homesteads be distributed by drawing lots. That method would prevent bloodshed, and infinite litigation, and the wiley sooner nor bluffing claim-jumper would be "in it." It is hoped that the government will heed the fervent prayer of landless citizens, and not allow another breakneck horse race for a few acres of mother earth."

It's Coming, Sure

Editor Independent: I am just now snow-bound and so having the time will attempt to invade the editorial sanctum of The Independent. I have been a careful reader of your paper as well as of current events in other papers the past few years and I wish to say as briefly as possible that in all human events, if any one thing is more sure than another, that one thing will be the taking over of some of our huge corporations by the people to be owned by them, that being in fact the only remedy for present economic evils. I believe that the great mass of voters who have given the subject any serious thought have arrived and can arrive at no other conclusion as being the true solution of the greatest of our difficulties.

The plundering of the public by "political bushwhackers" will be reduced to a minimum and the second largest economic evil will be eliminated. Now this new order is coming whether you will or no, and I only write these few lines that it possible you may help it along.

The people who advocate legislating the trusts and combines out of existence and still believe in keeping within constitutional law, are blind leaders of the blind. Just watch and see.

C. M. GILLETT

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(The position of The Independent is now and always has been that the public should own all the public utilities, such as street railways, telegraphs, telephones and railroads. It further believes that when any combination becomes a monopoly so that it can control production and regulate prices, that there is power in the states and general government to suppress it. To exercise that power with force and expediency that we should have the initiative and referendum.)