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What is the difference between a McKinley democrat like McLaurin and a Cleveland republican like Rolla Wells?

Some of the republican editors have been talking lately about "international morals." What kind of a thing is that?

The Aradida Champion (rep.) remarks: "The republicans of the state of Nebraska have reason to congratulate themselves on the end of the senatorial fight. It has been a bad one."

The question is settled at last. The judges of the supreme court of Nebraska held a joint session lasting four days and then handed down the opinion that there was such a thing as a gold democrat, and that J. H. Ames was it.

It is said that cowboys with Mexican lassos have been stationed in every hotel and at the White house in Washington and if Nebraska's "bull in a china shop" gets ranting around during his visit there they can rope him before much damage is done.

If the Boer war goes on for another year, England will have to put a populist in the office of chancellor of the exchequer, just as she did during the Napoleonic wars. It is either that or universal repudiation and the overthrow of the empire.

At the election last fall in Kansas the republicans cast 185,955 votes and the fusionists cast 162,601 votes. Out of that, the republicans drew six congressmen and the fusionists one. That is the way the strategists of the republican party generally manage things.

The department of agriculture has issued a bulletin on eggs and their uses as food. It says that hard boiled eggs and soft boiled eggs are equally digestible, only it takes a little longer in the former case. It declares that eggs at 25 cents a dozen are as cheap a food as meat.

The Platt resolution passed by congress and signed by the president was the blackest piece of infamy ever perpetrated by any civilized government and there is no use trying to deny it. It was the repudiation of a solemn pledge as was ever made by any national authority.

As long as the nations go on creating non-producing rich and non-producing poor, the creation of wealth will continue to decrease. When they put hundreds of thousands of men to work destroying wealth already created in wars upon one another, they only hasten the day of poverty.

The science of sociology is the coming study of mankind. Political economy is only a very small part of it. Sociology is the science and political economy is only a department. Nebraska university will be particularly strong in the teaching of that science during the next year.

The republicans of Illinois have adopted another populist idea. They are going to employ convicts in the construction of roads. Populists long ago pointed out that the way to keep convicts employed and not come in competition with honorable labor was to put them to making good roads.

Assistant Postmaster Bristow's report brought to light the stealing of Rathbone and Neely from the Cuban postal funds. It is now said that Mr. Bristow is to be dismissed from office. The next assistant postmaster will know better than to expose the republican thieves in McKinley's employment.

The New York World and many republican papers are talking again. The burden of their discourse is the "free silver lunacy." Not one of them will allow their readers to know that McKinley has been putting "the free silver lunacy" into practice to a greater extent than was ever advocated by even the wild-eyed and long-haired popal.

BUY A STRATEGIST

The thing needed by reform forces more than all other things is a political strategist. It is by political strategy that the republicans have held power for the last six years. Look at the manner in which they have handled the money question. The bankers and bond-holders having taken a notion that they could scoop in millions by tearing down our money system, the republican strategists went in with them, skinned them out of millions, lead them around with a string until they scooped in all the offices and then as soon as they got into power adopted the theories of the populists, began to coin silver by the ton and issue paper money by the ream. Before the fool bankers knew what had hit them, the money system that had advocated was substituted by another and they were launched on a sea of inflation such as this country never saw before. To keep the bankers quiet, every once in a while they launch out with a denunciation of "the free silver lunacy," after having coined and put into circulation more silver than was ever issued in the same length of time since the government was founded. That is, these strategists, after having won an election upon the cry that the coinage of silver must be stopped, went to work to coin silver in unheard of amounts.

Why was this done? The strategists knew that they could not hold the government if hard times should come. They knew that an increase of the currency would produce good times and they went at it. While they inflated the currency, they kept up the cry of "free silver lunacy" and the opposition didn't have the sense to point out that republicans had gone to coining silver and to this day not one of them will mention the fact. The democratic management to meet this sort of strategy has been about the kind that one would expect from the animal chosen to represent their party in the cartoons. Here was a chance to clear the republicans out, horse, foot and dragons, but the stolid democratic managers could not see it.

Suppose that during the last campaign, the great democratic dailies had run a series of cartoons representing the mints running night and day coining silver, the old republican elephant loaded down with bags of silver, with mottoes about the "free silver lunacy" of Mack and Mark, wouldn't there have been an uproar in the republican camp. A repudiation of some of their "sound money" articles compared with their practice when they got into power, a demonstration of how they were forced to adopt the populist policy to save themselves and prevent another panic worse than that of '93, would have made a campaign that would have had some spice in it. A political strategist would have seen that thin place in the republican line, charged upon it, broken through, captured the banners and guns of the enemy and marched off the field of battle in honor and triumph. But the old democratic donkey would not budge an inch from behind his breastworks.

A strategist would have made much of the great output of gold. The cartoonists would have represented the stream of gold that was pouring out of the smelters through the new scientific processes just invented and raised the cry of "a flood of gold" just as the republicans did about a "flood of silver." They could have scared the wits out of the New England saving banks depositors. But the donkey wore green goggles and couldn't see an inch from his nose. They could in opposition to trusts have advocated the government ownership of monopolies and gathered in the wage-workers' votes by pointing out the slavery that was coming when the trusts got hold of all the industries. They could have denounced the socialism of plutocracy and made the hair turn gray on the middle classes by a good use of that scare word.

But they didn't have any political strategist and the republicans had a big supply of them. If they can't get one any other way, they had better go into the market and buy one.

A pure man, devoted to high ideals like Bryan, was the sort for a candidate, but back of him there ought to have been a political strategist who knew all the modern political tactics and how to employ them.

Hired Editors

Once in a great while the editor of a plutocratic daily by some means gets the courage to write a truthful sentence. Such a moment came to the editor of the Boston Transcript and he wrote:

"The astutest commercial and financial minds of the world are today intent upon subverting the government of the United States to their private ends. The plan is to secure the enactment and perpetuation of measures calculated to enrich themselves at the expense of the public."

That is just what the populists have been saying for the last ten years and all that time the Transcript has been denouncing them as lunatics and cranks. Such a thing as patriotism is unknown in the commercial world. Contractors, if they can make more money, will as quickly sell supplies to the enemy as to the boys in blue. Cor-

porations and trusts will engage in bribery and when their purposes are accomplished boast of their shrewdness. The legislation of the party in power is wholly under the control of the commercial and financial minds of the plutocratic capitalists. The voters who make this state of things possible are as completely under the influence of the power of partisan insanity as ever any lunatic was by a delusion. There is a man out at the Lincoln insane asylum, or was a short time ago, who thoroughly believed that he was working for that institution at \$2.50 a day. Every Saturday night he made out his bill and forwarded it to the superintendent after which he was perfectly satisfied. The man who votes for Mark Hanna, syndicates, trusts and corporations is suffering from a delusion as much as the man at the insane asylum. The editors who advocate such policies are not suffering from such delusions. They know very well what they are doing and they do it for a salary. Editors of great dailies are all hired men. They write such stuff as they are told to write. They are not lunatics. They simply sell their country upon the same principles that Benedict Arnold did. The same fate in history awaits them.

THE SOUP HOUSE REIGN

It is probable that at least \$100,000,000 of the new British loan will be taken in this country. Shortly after that the senorage in the United States treasury will be exhausted and the coinage of silver will have to stop. That amount of gold taken out of this country and the stopping of the large part of the supply for money will have a disastrous effect upon prices. It is things like that that makes Uncle Russell Sage talk about a panic. Don't be alarmed. A panic is not wanted just at present and the republican strategists will get around it some way. They know that they can't hold the government if hard times set in. The Independent would not be astonished to see Mark and Mack out for free silver in the next campaign. They have been giving hints for some time that they are going to be for free trade. They can't squeeze the banks next time, but they will have a big pull on the trusts. If the republicans came out for free trade and free silver every mule head in Nebraska would shout for them just as loud and long as they ever shouted for the gold standard.

It was a sharp trick that they played on Cleveland when they brought on a panic and charged it all up to democracy. If there had been a republican president in 1893 there would have been no panic. The bankers of Wall street would not have sent out orders for all the little bankers to stop loaning money, just for an "object lesson" as they called it. Cleveland was so dense of mind and slow of perception that it was no trouble for the republican strategists to bunco him and send him and his party into a minority for decades to come. They got him to indulge in a policy that they have called the "soup house reign" ever since. When the senorage is exhausted you may rely on the republican strategists to make some sort of an excuse for keeping up the money supply. It may be a proposition to buy silver for minor coinage. But they will do something. The transference of \$100,000,000 of gold to Europe and the stoppage of the coinage of silver is a thing that they know the effect of as well as anybody.

STREET CAR PROFITS

During the year 1900, according to the state railroad commissioner's report, 567,144,099 persons were carried on the surface street cars of the Bronx and Manhattan, 323,229,639 on the surface and "L" roads of Brooklyn, and 184,164,110 on the Manhattan "L" roads. This makes the inconceivably huge total of 1,074,537,848 five-cent fares collected from the people of Greater New York last year. This gives \$53,726,892.40 as the total yearly expenditure for car-fares within the city limits, the great bulk of it by the working people. Three-cent fares all over the city would reduce that expenditure to \$32,236,135.44. And that would leave in the pockets of the people, to be saved or spent for other purposes, the magnificent yearly sum of \$21,490,756.96. And it must not be overlooked that the number of car-fares collected in Greater New York grows much larger every year. There was an increase of 113,000,000 fares in 1900 over 1899.

Some of the ninnies who edit republican papers are congratulating the farmers on the rise in the value of their farming land and say that is one of the blessings that McKinley has bestowed upon them. The Independent is willing to let McKinley have all the glory there is in that thing. What benefit is it to a farmer to have the price of his land increased from \$25 to \$50 an acre? Can he raise any more wheat or corn on it after the rise in price than he did before? Does it benefit the farmer to have the taxation on his farm doubled? If the farmer wants to sell out, become a plutocrat and live on the interest of his money, a rise in price would benefit him, but as long as he works his farm it only increases his taxation.

STARTLING EVIDENCE

The Independent has been trying to keep its readers informed concerning the demoralization and degeneracy that has distinguished Washington for the last four years. Some startling evidence in regard to that matter is given by the eminent scholar, historian and traveller, Poultny Bigelow, who has recently given a course of lectures at Yale and Harvard. He says that "commercialism runs riot in the United States. The Yankees are coining their ideas and energy into money and the trust builders are doing the rest. These money kings must necessarily exercise a blighting influence on the morals of public servants. They create all manner of temptations and breed all manner of jobbery."

"In Washington I found a cynical contempt for the constitution. Corruption stalks through the government departments. It disgraces the halls of congress. Congress itself is little more than a brokerage shop for the sale of authority to fleece the people. The legislators, department officials and petty public servants of all kinds neglect no opportunity of turning their official prerogatives to profit."

"I learned many specific instances of flagrant jobbery, especially in connection with the Philippine war. Thousands of officials, who owe it to their consciences, do not want the struggle to come to an end. They would much prefer to see it indefinitely prolonged. "America needs a thorough arousing of the public conscience. It needs, to deliver it from the slavery of capitalism, such men and women as delivered it from slavery of human beings. In other words, it needs an epidemic of cranks—cranks like William Lloyd Garrison—cranks such as England had in Richard Cobden and John Bright."

ENGLISH DISTRESS

The deficit in the British revenues for the last year was \$266,535,000. The estimated deficit for the next year is even greater, all caused by Chamberlain's imperial policy and wars of conquest. A loan of \$300,000,000 will be floated besides an increase in the income and many other taxes. The chancellor has resorted to both export and import duties. One thing that startled parliament was the declaration of the chancellor that the Boer war "had brought the country to the verge of ruin," and he added that "the war has cost \$755,000,000, double the cost of the Crimean war. There was \$335,000,000 of the unfunded debt redeemable within the next ten years. I have tried to put before the house a true account of our finances for the present and immediate future. In our time no chancellor of the exchequer has had so difficult a task."

When some of the Englishmen who tore their hair and voted the republican ticket, because The Independent warned the English people of the disaster that were sure to follow the jingo policy, read these statements, it is hoped that they will spend a few moments in serious reflection. The announcement that the pressure was so great that the sinking fund would have to be suspended, was equivalent to a declaration that the empire was about ready to go into the hands of a receiver. It is a long step toward repudiation and must seriously effect the price of English securities. The views so frequently expressed by Chancellor Andrews will now have additional adherents.

GOLD AND GLORY

The statisticians announce that one-fourth of the German workmen are idle and about the same number in England. If the men in the army in South Africa are to be accounted idle, and they are worse than idle, for they are engaged in the destruction of wealth, the percentage of idle men is very much greater. It does not take much of a philosopher to tell what that means. The destruction of wealth by immense armies and one-fourth of the men at home idle means a decade or two of poverty such as the world has not witnessed in a long time. This craze for gold and glory will bring its own punishment. The thing to be regretted is that the innocent will have to suffer along with the guilty. A Berlin dispatch announces the discharge of 5,000 employes of the great Krupp iron and steel works, making 9,000 discharged since October last. And the Berliner Tageblatt says "one-fourth of all the working people of Germany are either idle or insufficiently employed."

PRACTICING ECONOMY

The industrial commission has had Chas. R. Flint, the great trust promoter and trust defender, before them. His receipt for forming a trust is as follows:

"In forming a trust take of cash the smallest possible amount; of preferred stock use the full value of the concerns purchased; dilute this amount by the addition of common stock to the amount of the preferred or more; stir well and place on the market."

A trust is simply a scheme to water stocks. The idea of economy never enters the head of a trust promoter. That is left to the fool plutocratic editors. After the stock is watered five or six hundred per cent, the next effort is to

squeeze enough out of the consumer to pay interest on the water. In that way capital can be made to earn fifteen or twenty per cent instead of five to ten as in the old days. That is what the plutocratic editors declare is reducing the cost of production and practicing economy.

MORE SCIENTIFIC POPULISM

The annual meeting of the American Social Science association was held in Washington last week. Like all the scientific associations which have held meetings lately, it took distinctively populist ground. It was presided over by F. B. Sanborn of Concord, Mass., who also made the principal address. He said:

"The pressing danger in this nation, both social and political, comes from the accumulation of enormous wealth in a few hands, whether individual or corporate, and the uncontrolled opportunity given to make these accumulations still greater and to use them for the control of legislation and political administration."

The scientists are slow, but they get there after a while. In social science and political economy, populism still leads the world.

Among the other distinctions of the redeemers' legislature is that it was the most illiterate lot of men that ever assembled at the capital. The transferring of the laws they made to book form and the printed page shows that much of the language of the bills is ungrammatical and the spelling almost beyond the hope of redemption by the most accomplished "redeemer." There is continuous conflict between those in charge of the printing and the type-setters. Even the most ordinary typo does not like to set up such words as "judgement" and "maintain" without correcting the spelling, but there is no authority vested in any one to change the laws in the slightest from what appears in the enrolled bills. If printed as passed, the session laws of the redeemers' legislature will be a spectacle for mankind and monkeys. Hurrah for the Nebraska mule head! He has made his mark in history.

During the wars of Napoleon when England was spending money by the millions, the wage-workers and farmers of that country were prosperous beyond all precedent. But from 1815 to 1825 wages fell so that the means of purchasing enough to support life was in very many thousands of cases entirely lacking. In writing of that time the historian says: "Men died of hunger after eating wild herbs. Mechanics were working twelve hours for three pence a day." The same conditions toward the making of temporary prosperity in England and America exist today and when the conditions change to those that followed the Napoleonic wars the same results will follow. There are certain economic laws that all power of unchecked imperialism cannot overthrow. They work with the certainty of fate.

While the republicans never cease to denounce fusion, they always avail themselves of it whenever it will work for their advantage. That was a fusion of republican and gold democrat votes in St. Louis that resulted in the election of Rolla Wells. A little over 25,000 republican votes were cast for Wells, and with that aid he ran 17,000 behind the vote cast for Bryan at the last national election. Cleveland, Hill and the republicans do a great deal of bragging over the election of Wells, but The Independent cannot see that there is any cause for it. He was elected because of a multiplicity of candidates and because a few rich men—republicans and gold democrats—had formed a pool to get the handling of the \$16,000,000 that had been appropriated by congress, the state of Missouri, and the city for the St. Louis fair.

The republican rural roosters who edit—no not edit—print the weekly Mark Hanna papers consider that they get off a cutting and sarcastic paragraph when they say that the pops are all the time complaining about the republicans buying populist votes. The pops never said any such thing. They said that Mark Hanna stuffed the ballot boxes with 20,000 illegal votes at the last election, but he brought his own hirelings into this state on free railroad passes to do it. The fusion forces polled as many votes as they ever did, although seven or eight counties in the state where they had always polled a heavy vote were nearly depopulated on account of three years of drought. The republicans did not buy any populist votes for there were no populist votes for sale.

The fool Nebraska legislature left all the important legislation practically at the mercy of the governor, by passing the bills and then adjourning before they could act on governor's vetoes. No more dangerous thing was ever done. If a fool governor should, under such conditions, veto the necessary bills for carrying on the government and then refuse to call a special session, he could throw the state into anarchy for two years. When the veto power was given to the governor it was never contemplated that the leg-

islature should adjourn and leave the state at the mercy of one man. There is one consolation. Nebraska will not be burdened with a republican governor again for a very long time.

The mugwumps have had much to say of late about the inefficiency of our consular service and declared that we must create a system that will produce life tenure of office or we never could compete with the monarchies of the old world. Foreigners who have felt the effect of the work of our consuls have an altogether different idea of the efficiency of our consuls. The Hamburger Fremdenblatt, in an article on the competition of the United States has covered Europe with a network of consulates and makes its consuls inspectors of our exports and vigilant sentinels who spy out every trade opening and promptly report it." Could a better testimony of their efficiency be given? Standing armies and life tenure of office are the essentials of plutocracy.

The financial journals of Europe are pointing out how Wall street fooled them in 1893. They say that having refused to loan money in the United States for political effect, it necessarily destroyed in a great measure the value of American securities held by foreigners and the bankers took the money which they refused to lend at home and bought the said securities far below their real value, that in fact they skinned the American producer and the foreign holders of American securities both at the same time. In fact, skinned both going and coming. The Independent acknowledges that that is a pretty correct diagnosis, but wonders that it took the foreigners so long to find it out.

Senator Platt declared in a recent interview that the United States was pledged to see that a republican form of government was established in Cuba. He did not refer to the time or place when that pledge was made, but that will make no difference to the average republican. He will believe it all the same. The only declaration that is of record is "that Cuba is, and of right ought to be free and independent," and the solemn pledge made by congress and the president that as soon as the island was pacified that the United States would withdraw, all of which means that the kind of government to be established in Cuba is their business and not ours.

It is now said that the emperor will issue an ukase on July 1, declaring free trade with Porto Rico. Several surmises have been indulged in in regard to the change resolved upon by the White house dictator. One is that there is likely to be some change made by the coming decision of the supreme court. Another is that the awful condition of the starving people in that island cannot much longer be kept from the knowledge of the people. Matters constantly grow worse there from day to day. The destruction of their trade with Spain and Cuba and the imposts imposed upon their commerce by the United States has paralyzed industry.

The American protective league is preparing for the coming fight long beforehand as its custom has been for the last thirty years. It has prepared 1,695 cartoons in the interest of protection which will be sent free to any paper that will use them. The best artistic talent has been employed in their production and as works of art they are really first class. The league is getting frightened at the anti-protection sentiment that is exhibited in various quarters. The Independent has secured copies of all these cartoons which it will be pleased to show to any inquiring individual who wishes to see them.

Every week for a month or two a national bank has failed because the officers have stolen the funds and gambled them away on the board of trade. Last week two of them had sense enough left to blow their brains out after they had been found out. It is passing strange that these McKinley bank examiners can never find out that there is anything wrong with a bank until it is too late to save the depositor's money. Perhaps they would do better if they only had life appointments and pensions for their widows after they were dead. That is the mugwump remedy for all the evils of this plutocratic reign.

Russia cannot blame the majority of people from believing that when she says that she will get out of Manchuria as soon as "a stable government" is established that she really means that she will get out when England leaves Egypt and McKinley evacuates Cuba. Possession was undertaken in all these cases under the same promise.

A republican court has knocked the referendum clear out in South Dakota. The Sioux Falls Press remarks: "Just how the people can secure direct legislation is difficult to see, as it is within the power of the supreme court to destroy the constitution at pleasure."

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