

THE CREDULOUS MASSES

There is nothing so absurd, so contradictory to facts, so opposed to reason that the general public will not believe it if it is solemnly affirmed a few times in some of the great dailies. Take the assertion that trusts inaugurate economies in production and reduce the cost of goods to the consumers. The whole population seem to believe the statement, when the fact is that every trust made article has risen in price from salt to steel and that the price is always raised as soon as the trust is formed. It seems that the people of the United States have quit thinking and take every statement that they see for the truth without any examination or investigation. The dead weight of these enormous corporations will make production more costly instead of cheapening it. No one mind can overcome it all and the result in the end will be loss. The trust may dispense with the services of a few travelling salesmen, but salesmen create trade and sell goods that never can be sold from a general agency. A republican paper will announce that the Standard Oil company has reduced the price of oil more than one-half during the last few years. Every fellow who reads the paper will firmly believe it, and from that on regard the oil trust as a great philanthropic institution. There have been discoveries of enormous oil fields and there are gushers that spout forth thousands of gallons of oil a day in all parts of the world, while when the Rockefeller first organized the trust there were only a few oil wells in western Pennsylvania. That has had nothing to do with lowering the price of oil. It has all been brought about by the philanthropic Rockefeller. Such are the credulous masses.

If there are any republican weeklies in the state whose editors ever make a truthful statement or write a connected, logical article in defense of their party principles. The Independent would like to exchange with them. Those that come to this office are not of that character. Some of them have nothing at all but boiler plate editorial and none of them print a full column of editorial matter in an issue. To show the character of their statements, two are taken from the Wasp, which has a good deal less than a column of editorial. It says: "The populist party in Nebraska seems to be in a bad way financially, owing something over \$5,000." "Sensators Dietrich and Millard are in Washington, familiarizing themselves with the duties of their position." As to the truthfulness of the first statement all the readers are informed. But what about the second? Every one knows that the two heavenly twins went to Washington to arrange for the distribution of the offices. Is that what is called "familiarizing themselves with the duties of their position?" If so, it would seem that the idea of the Wasp is that the duties of senators is to distribute offices, not to legislate for this great nation.

It is said that small steel factories are organizing in several different states to take advantage of the high prices that are expected to result from the formation of the great billion dollar steel trust. Indianapolis is offering inducements and one or two are well on the way. The fools who bought that watered stock may be in the not very distant future be found wailing and gnashing their teeth without one glimmering hope to lighten their dark despair. Who can tell? One thing is certain that no trust can long endure that has watered its stock three or four hundred per cent. If they had only been satisfied with forty or fifty per cent the mallet heads would never have grumbled, but three or four hundred per cent takes the life out of things. Not enough can be wrung out of the people to pay interest and the thing will have to go into a receiver's hands.

It is learned from the ancient papyrus recently discovered in Egypt, specimens of which have been sent to the various universities in this country, that there was a more just system of taxation in that country nearly six thousand years ago than in the United States at the present time. Taxes on farmers were based on the water that the farmers were able to get on their lands. No water, no taxes. If that system had been applied to the farms of Nebraska during the years of drouth many a family would have saved its

home. It was in fact an income tax, such as the populists demanded sixty centuries later. After long and fruitless efforts at recruiting the administration has given up all hope of getting an army of 100,000 men. Officers for it have all been appointed and their commissions are for life, but the American young men would not enlist. Companies will be reduced to a minimum so that there will be a sufficient number of regimental organizations to give all the officers a place. Plant some more corn, sow some more wheat to pay these officers their salaries while they do nothing.

For the twelve years that Pettigrew was in the United States senate he devoted all his time to the interests of the people. When he failed of re-election he went at it and made a million dollars just to show the plutocrats that if he wished to turn his attention to money-making he could beat the sharpest of them at their own game. Besides that he qualified himself for future membership in the Washington millionaires' club.

The New York World is very much perturbed because it says that the "republicans will steal the tariff issue." The Independent is not at all perturbed. First, because it has foreseen that they would for a long time and kept its readers posted on that subject, and, second, because it seems impossible to get any sort of a reform unless it is labeled republican since Cleveland made democracy everlastingly disreputable.

The American Economist is so wrought up over the tendency among some republicans to go back on the sacred doctrines of "protection" that it has begun an argument, planned after the sound money papers. It begins at "the age of barter" and works slowly onward toward modern times. In "the age of barter" they didn't have tariffs and therefore they were all barbarians. That settles it.

When the panic of '93 was inaugurated the western bankers had all their money in the Wall street banks. It will not be that way next time. There are a large number of bankers in the west who have been taught better by the populists. The others will get skinned just like their fool brethren did in the last panic.

Rockefeller should donate another million dollars to the Chicago university to start a department called "Funston Ethics." That is the code of ethics that has enabled Rockefeller to gather his millions and he ought to specially endow a department to teach it.

Mark Hanna swears by the holy horn spoon that there shall be no tinkering with the tariff at the next session of congress. He had to do that to allay the excitement among the tariff barons of New England, some of whom have not been able to sleep nights lately.

Current Comment

The Peter Cooper club of Omaha is not dead—it does not even sleep. On the 7th of May it will have a banquet. The following speakers have accepted invitations and will be present and deliver addresses, namely, W. J. Bryan, General Weaver, Jerry Simpson, W. V. Allen, and the editor of The Independent. There is a general invitation extended to all the populists of the state to attend.

The emperor of the Philippines and Porto Rico, suzerain of Cuba and president of the United States started on his journey across the continent and back last Monday. All of the court and thousands of gaping, disfranchised plebeians of the capital city turned out to see him off. The train on which he rides is the most gorgeous that has ever been seen in this or any other country. A pilot engine precedes the special from five to ten minutes and another follows to assist in case of accident. Ten hours ahead the special main track on each division is cleared of all freight trains. Forty secret service men in plain clothes, the most expert detectives in the United States, accompany him as a body guard. No monarch in Europe ever went forth in more royal state or better guarded. Aside from the immense cost of the train and its equipment the traffic of a continent is to be disarranged. The newspapers announce in great head lines, "Triumphal Tour" and "Demonstrations of Loyalty, Loyalty to what? Loyalty to the man" who stands for large armies, wars of conquest and colonial possessions. Under this reign, the cost of

government has risen to \$10 per capita. Figure it out for yourself and see. Government expenses appropriated by the last congress, \$1,500,000,000; population, 74,000,000.

It was not long ago that the Cheerful Idiot was standing on his head and twiddling his toes because he said that the populist governor was pardoning all the criminals in the penitentiary, when the fact was that he had not issued a pardon during his whole term. The other day Henry Bots, whom the republicans elected to office in Omaha and who embezzled over \$100,000, was seen walking around the streets of that city a free man and the Cheerful Idiot had not a word to say. Back we go step by step towards the imperialistic conditions of the 16th century. The other day two women were stripped to the waist in Virginia and publicly whipped by the sheriff for immorality. If the matter would end there it might not produce any very disastrous results, but it will not end there. In the very nature of man and society it cannot. There will be reflex action. Brutality will become less hateful to the public and the chivalry which always has been the protection of woman will be partly effaced. The universal protest that has gone up from every part of the union may prevent a recurrence of such official acts. What sort of a man must that sheriff have been who applied the lash?

It is said the battleship Maine is about to be floated. The contract was given to a wrecking company that reports that the vessel is but slightly injured and can be repaired. There is over \$500,000 worth of ammunition sealed up in its water-tight compartments that is uninjured. There is no longer any doubt that the Maine was blown up by a mine fired from the shore. The wire connecting it with the shore has been found and traced to the firing station.

The reports coming from the Philippines concerning the frauds in the commissary department show that the conspiracy was wide-spread and that very many officers are implicated. One or two privates and non-commissioned officers have been convicted, but the great thieves and officers in high standing have not been. If it takes as long to try them as it did Neely and Rathbone most of them will die of old age before the cases are disposed of. What The Independent has said about the demoralization of the army of conquest, 10,000 miles from home, is far less than the truth. Nothing else could be expected.

The other day, three weeks after it appeared in The Independent, a Chicago daily printed the letter from the American consul in St. Petersburg denying the stories that had appeared in the dailies about the uprising in Russia. The fact is that the papers in budge in such universal lying that one can believe nothing. There may be uprisings in Russia and it may be the peaceful land of the blest for all that any citizen of this country knows about it in this age of mendacity.

The Cuban commission has been to Washington and gone home again. There was every effort made to overwhelm them with compliments and attentions. Officers of the army who spoke Spanish were detailed to attend upon them and they were wined and dined all the time they were in the city. A formal dinner was given them at the White house and every other honor, regardless of cost, was conferred upon them. The Machiavellian theories of diplomacy were worked for all that there was in them. What the result will be we will have to wait to see.

The head-line, "The Chinese Puzzle," has appeared so often in the dailies that it has become tiresome. As long as a press censorship exists it is not much use for the average citizen to trouble himself about China or any other public matter. He can get nothing that he knows are facts upon which to base a judgment. The best he can do is to guess at what is probable. The latest dispatches say that there has been considerable fighting done by the German troops under Waldersee. It appears that one regiment got into a trap and lost several men, but they say they finally drove the Chinese clear across the great wall. Meantime it seems that the German people are getting very tired of the whole business and would be very glad to get out of it.

Callahan, one of the parties to the Cudahy floundering case, was acquitted by the jury before whom he was tried. The verdict is considered by all parties to be the most extraordinary ever handed in by a Nebraska jury. The evidence was so complete that it did not seem possible for a doubt to exist as to his guilt, yet the jury found him not guilty. The verdict is the subject of discussion all over the country. Callahan is still in jail and may be tried on other charges.

The American minister to China, Mr. Conger, has come home, as he says, on sixty days' leave of absence and the republicans of Iowa propose to run him for governor. Other reports are to the effect that Conger came home at the request of the president because he did not like the course that Conger had pursued. That is denied by Mr. Conger. What the truth about the matter is, has no consequence anyhow. What difference does it make to the farmers, who these days get up at daylight and work until 9 o'clock at night, to clerks in the dry goods stores or the tollers in the factories whether Mr. Conger is elected governor of Iowa or goes back to China? If any great number of these workers should stop producing, Mr. Conger would be short of his salary in either position.

Yesterday the big show at Buffalo was opened and Nebraska had on exhibition three or four republican politicians for whom the recent republican legislature provided good salaries. That is all that Nebraska will have to show to the east. It is a grand exhibition of the resources of this state, and not altogether deceptive, for republican politicians were the chief product last fall and winter.

It seems that wherever imperialism

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The backward spring season has dealt heavily with manufacturers throughout the country, causing them to be over-burdened with stock and making a speedy clearing necessary. The store afforded an outlet for many of them, and they didn't stop to count the cost. We share the benefit with you, as always.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Includes 'Wash Goods, Domestic', 'Waists, Skirts and Wrappers', and 'Men's Furnishings'.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Includes 'Hosiery for Summer Wear' and 'Summer Knit Underwear'.

H. Herpolsheimer & Co LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

exists, depopulation sets in. Population decreases here and Ireland. Last year a greater number of emigrants left the island than the year before. Of that total number of emigrants 37,765 came to this country, Great Britain received 6,050, New Zealand 64, Canada 472 and Australia 834. Population is decreasing in Porto Rico and if the official reports are to be believed, McKinley has killed 30,000 Filipinos and of course there must be less population there. This Malthusian position evidently thinks that the world is too thickly populated and is going to do what he can to thin them out.

Although it is less than three years since the war with Spain began, there have been already almost 41,000 applications for pensions filed on account of it, and this exclusive of the service in the Philippines. It is estimated that the total number of men in the war on the American side was 274,717, though of this number only about 60,000 were actually engaged. It will be seen therefore on this basis, that for every six men who actually saw service there have been four applications for pensions.

Mrs. Nation who was confined in a Kansas jail has gone insane and had to be committed to an asylum. Her insanity is not due to her confinement in jail, but to her mental trouble which was said to be the death of a brother. This will probably end the "Nation craze" and things will settle back into normal conditions in Kansas. The half lunatics who urged Mrs. Nation on instead of restraining her, will probably not be sent to an asylum, but they evidently were not of sound mind. Some attention should now be given to the Kansas City judge who fined Mrs. Nation \$500 for exercising the right of free speech. He may not be a lunatic, but he certainly knew nothing of law.

A correspondent asks why The Independent did not print Aguinaldo's address. There were a dozen reasons for not printing it, any one of which was sufficient. In the first place Aguinaldo was a prisoner under restraint and anything that he might say under those conditions would have no force whatever. In the second place there is no proof that what has been published in the republican papers was ever written by him. He is in close confinement and anything that he would write would have to have the approval of the officer in charge before it would be given to the public. Set Aguinaldo free, put him outside the jurisdiction of the army and then whatever he may say would have some force and deserve printing.

One of the Cubans who came to Washington upon his return was reported to have said after referring to the provision in the Platt resolution giving the United States power to send troops into the island that "although the United States might withdraw her forces now, she could send them back again. This then was a stumbling block. It was, perhaps, magnified in the eyes of the common people and they were well founded such a measure should not receive our sanction. But President McKinley soon assured us that these suspicions were groundless. When we said that by this provision the United States had more jurisdiction over Cuba than any of its own states, because in the latter case I understand the national government cannot send troops into a state without permission of the state government, he said: "Gentlemen, you need have no fears. Troops will not be sent into Cuba unless conditions are little less than anarchy."

Quakers—Three Noted Women—Ship Subsidy. We attended a Quaker meeting Sunday. Our memory was carried back to the days of our late boyhood and early manhood. There was a Quaker settlement on the Genesee, about twenty-five miles below where we were born and reared, and in this settlement was the first underground railroad depot on the fugitives' road to Canada. Fugitives from slavery, who stopped at

Machiavellian, but those who remember his talk about our "plain duty" to Porto Rico and that forcible annexation was criminal aggression will place very little confidence in the words of such a president.

On his imperial tour McKinley is preaching the doctrine of imperialism openly. At Memphis he reminded the people that additions had been made to the city by act of the legislature "and without the consent of the governed," from which we are to infer that the people adjacent to Memphis had no representation in the Tennessee legislature, for if they had the argument falls to the ground. Then he talks a great deal about our trade with the Orient, and the riches that are to gather from it. The recent statistics prove that our trade with the Orient is but a bagatelle when compared with the trade of western Europe. The overpopulated Orient, with its teeming millions of brown people who have little that we buy and are too poor to buy much that we have to sell, makes conditions that will render the wild dreams of the imperialist impossible of realization.

Governor Savage says that the pestiferous he has endured from office-seekers during the last three weeks was enough to kill an ordinary man. The republican patriots who think that they are entitled to office in payment for party work runs far up into the thousands in this state.

Rev. Dr. Rainsforth called Mark Twain's attack on the missionaries "damned rot" and now there is a great discussion going on in the New York dailies over the question whether the use of profanity by ministers is allowable. In defense they quote Ethan Allen's "By the Great Jehovah," General Jackson's "By the Eternal," and the good St. Boniface's oath, "By St. Peter's Tomb." If they keep on they will have ministers swearing worse than pirates.

The two embezzling bankers who went out and shot themselves up on the Pacific coast have proved themselves cowards as well as thieves. They wrote maudlin letters to their wives and children and then left them to bear disgrace and poverty and the wives to work for the support of the children. A thief is generally a coward, especially the kind that act as bank officials.

DR. BULL'S COUGH SYRUP IS THE BEST remedy for all bronchial affections. It is a great mistake to allow a cough or cold to run on; for it may develop serious throat or lung trouble. Take Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup at once.

George W. Berge has dissolved partnership with W. M. Morning, Esq., and has formed a new partnership with his brother, Frederick O. Berge, of the Kansas City bar. Louis A. Berge, another brother, will also assist him in the office. Mr. Berge retains the old offices in the Brownell block and is putting in one of the most complete libraries in the city.

Hardy's Column

Quakers—Three Noted Women—Ship Subsidy. We attended a Quaker meeting Sunday. Our memory was carried back to the days of our late boyhood and early manhood. There was a Quaker settlement on the Genesee, about twenty-five miles below where we were born and reared, and in this settlement was the first underground railroad depot on the fugitives' road to Canada. Fugitives from slavery, who stopped at

father's house toward morning, were taken the next night to the Quaker depot and the night following were taken to the shores of Lake Ontario and sent to Canada. Every Quaker was an abolitionist. There has always been a warm corner in our heart for Quakers ever since.

The three women are still living who have done more to elevate womanhood by education and to extend her the rights and protection of law during the last century, than any other three persons, men or women, living or dead. Julia Ward Howe is one of the most accomplished women of the world in every way. She is now over eighty-two years of age and still takes an active part in public work. She is the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and is often called upon, in these latter days, to rehearse it in public. The hymn was written in Washington in 1861. Susan B. Anthony is eighty-one and still at work with Mrs. Howe for the higher education of women, their better employment and more remunerative wages. She commenced teaching near Rochester, N. Y., for one-fifty per week and "boarded around," while men teachers were getting from five to eight dollars per week. A few years ago the trustees of the Rochester university refused to admit women as students if they would raise one hundred thousand dollars as endowment fund, the use of which to be credited to the expense fund of the institution. Only a short time ago Miss Anthony paid in the last two thousand dollars and completed the fund, so after this both sexes will be taught in that university. Elizabeth Cady Stanton is the third of the trio, though she is over eighty-five, she is still one of the three great woman powers. She is the woman Gladstone of America for statesmanship. She was at the first international anti-slavery convention, which met in London in 1848, but was refused a seat because she was a woman. She met Lucretia Mott here and they together called the first women's suffrage convention ever called in America, which met at her house, Seneca Falls, N. Y., the same year.

Congressman Burkett compares the ship subsidy scheme to the granting of subsidy bonds for building of railroads. Railroad bonds are voted that freight and passengers may be carried cheaper than with horses and oxen. There is no promise or thought that ocean freight or passage will be any cheaper for the payment of ten millions a year into the pockets of the rich ship-owners. If our produce could be carried as much cheaper from New York to Liverpool as it is from Nebraska to New York by railroad, it would be a good investment to pay the subsidy demanded. Editor Geere told us a few years ago that the reason our merchant marine was petering out was because Americans could make more money in other occupations. Americans can do better than raise tea, now why not take a chunk of China and then pay Americans a subsidy for raising tea? Mr. Burkett bases his argument on national pride, necessities of war and business. Away with pride. It is a fact our chief national pride is in our millionaires. The first fruit of the ship subsidy is to make more of them. Better plan for peace than to plan for war. We can live and prosper if not another ship enters or leaves our harbors for years. The question naturally arises who will be made to pay the subsidy? The farmers of the United States will be made to pay more than nine-tenths of it. Their products pay the most of the freight; they consume the most of the high tariff and trust goods. The millionaires pay no more to support government than the man who works on his farm or by the day for corporations and trusts. More than nine-tenths of

government taxes are paid by hard workers. That is the tendency of republicanism today—grind the poor and grease the rich.

ANOTHER TRUST ORGANIZED

Trade Unionists Think They Can Play a Hand at That Game as Well as Morgan

With the idea of forming one big labor union of 2,000,000 members, National President L. R. Thomas of the pattern-makers; William A. Shaw, business agent of the International association of machinists; John Fernan, district master workman of the Knights of Labor; National President Simon Burns of the window glass workers' association; John Kunzler, national president of the American flint glass workers' association, and National President T. J. Shaffer of the amalgamated association of iron, steel and tin workers, and J. W. Pryle, secretary of structural iron workers, met in Knights of Labor hall in Pittsburg last week.

It is proposed to hold a national convention at which representatives of the various labor organizations will be present in Chicago, July 1, for the purpose of formulating plans to bring all the trades unionists in this country under one federal head. The delegates at this convention will represent nearly 2,000,000 men directly and indirectly connected with the gigantic combinations that have been ushered into existence during the last two years.

It is claimed the leaders of the workmen are alarmed over the character and enormity of the combines, and they are inclined to the opinion that the combinations of such vast capital bodes no good to them. This was indicated in the address of National President Thomas. He said that a number of trades had decided to be represented, and that already the delegates promised would represent at least over 200,000 trades unionists who are skilled workmen. He presented the list, which was as follows: International association of machinists, 50,000; iron molders, 40,000; boiler-makers and shipbuilders, 40,000; electrical workers, 25,000; blacksmiths, 5,000; pattern-makers, 3,000; coremakers, 3,000; brass finishers and metal polishers, 12,000; stove mounters, 3,000.

He added that recently building trades councils throughout the country had been organized in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, Rochester, New York, Detroit, San Francisco, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Scranton and Hartford. He claimed these trades are essential to the trades unionists, and can be brought under one head, that will, if the plan proves successful, be operated on the same principle as the combines.

Organized labor seems to be the only force of men preparing to fight the trusts. If they only had the trusts to fight the victory would be certain and swift, but they will find that they will have to fight the courts, the army, the navy and the hundreds of thousands who have secured life appointments under this government put in power by the trusts. Wage-workers should have begun where the wage-workers of New Zealand began and got control of the government. Most of them have been shouting, working and voting to turn the government over to the trusts, and the trusts will use it against them.

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