

# The Nebraska Independent.

VOL. XIII.

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NO. 7.

## CHANCELLOR ANDREWS

The Alumni of Brown University Stand by Their Old Instructor and Elect Him a Trustee

The devilish bitterness of the campaign of 1895 by the adherents of the gold standard was never equalled on the earth in all history and probably will never be in all time to come. No matter what was the integrity, learning and moral standing of a man, if he was not willing to further the interests of the Wall street pirates, a deliberate plot was invented to ruin him. That applied to men of learning who were not in politics at all as well as to the most active office-seeker who fought under the Bryan banner. Such men as Francis A. Walker, Chancellor Andrews and hundreds of others, perhaps not so widely known for their learning and ability as these two, were hounded as if they were criminals of the most desperate kind. To differ from the pirates upon a strictly scientific question was enough to start the whole wretched pack of vilifiers and defamers on a hunt after them, not to be stopped until the unfortunate victims were ruined in fortune and character if the thing was possible.

A slight reaction has set in since that time although there are thousands who continue the old vilifications with all the bitterness that it is possible to inject into them. An evidence that some of them are inclined to make amends for their severity is the election of Chancellor Andrews to a trusteeship in Brown university. A correspondent writes as follows about that matter:

"These dispatches recently announced the election of Chancellor Andrews of Nebraska university to be trustee of Brown university, of which he was formerly president. I doubt, however, if Lincoln people have been told just how this came about. As told to me last night, by a prominent citizen of Providence, father of a student at Brown, it was an interesting story of the influence and impression left behind by a strong character working for the best interests of an institution. It seems that when a trustee of Brown is to be selected, the alumni recommend, though do not actually elect. When it came to filling the recent vacancy, there was a candidate seemingly picked out by circumstances. Mr. Rockefeller had just made a donation to Brown, and as he has not ceased these practices, it seemed fitting, both as a tribute of respect and gratitude and as a matter of policy, to select a friend of Mr. Rockefeller's. The trustee elected was the president of the Providence Exchange bank, whom the oil magnate would have liked elected. Just make sure that the arrangement went through smoothly, some prominent alumni got out a neat circular letter stating that the friends of the university seemed to be for the filling of the institution that the banker be made trustee. Names carrying considerable weight were signed and the letters went out to the alumni, far and wide. But a wave of simultaneous thought—where set in motion no man may know—knocked all the plan and nullified the circular. One after another of the alumni, taking up his pen to send in his recommendation thought of a sturdy character, a lofty purpose and a faithful friend, and said to himself, 'Well, this New York banker may be all right, but I think E. Benjamin Andrews would fit my ideal of a trustee.'

There had been no organized movement, no real mention of the ex-president as a candidate, but when the votes were counted, one man had seventy, one forty, others lesser numbers, but E. Benjamin Andrews had about 450 out of some 650 alumni votes. There was only one thing to do and it was done.

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The ten principal items in our agricultural export trade for 1900 were: Breadstuffs \$262,744,078; Cotton 242,988,978; Meat products 173,751,471; Live animals 45,855,031; Tobacco 29,422,371; Oil, cake and oil cake meal 16,806,302; Vegetable oils 16,445,056; Eggs and poultry 11,261,652; Dairy products 9,226,520; Seeds 7,306,982; Others 31,067,079.

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Of meat products \$107,521,000 went to the United Kingdom and \$32,808,000 of live animals to the same country. Look over that list and see how much of our exports were furnished by great financiers and leaders in the republican party, and how much was furnished by the farmers. Who is it that gives this country standing among the nations of the earth? Is it the Wall street gang of pirates or the men on the farms?

As a climax to Mr. Hoar's fine flow of declamation against all the men who went back on the great Declaration, he predicted their final doom as follows:

'The men who stand by it shall live in the eternal memory of mankind, and the men who depart from it—(which I may have meant Mr. McKinley, because no exceptions were made) and the men who depart from it, however triumphant and successful in their little policies, shall perish and be forgotten, or shall be remembered only to be despised.'

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ther propose to discharge a hundred thousand or so of their employees. The offices of railroads in the different principal cities throughout the country will be consolidated. The report is revived in connection with the Morgan-Hill syndicate operations. It is said that wherever separate offices are now maintained by the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington joint offices will be substituted.

After the offices of individual lines under the same ownership have been brought together, it is said, thousands of solicitors and freight and passenger agents will be eliminated in the interest of economy.

On with the dance. There may be no hereafter to this sort of business, but The Independent believes that there is.

Who Will Answer?

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## SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

Every Evil That Affects the People or is a Threat Against Free Government Comes From Granting Them

The readers of The Independent will remember how often it has been insisted upon in this paper that the granting of special privileges is the basis of all the evils that have appeared in modern governments. Competition has not been an evil. Most of the blessings that we still enjoy are the results of competition. It has given us a hardy and virile race of men and women without whose intelligence and activities we would still be slaves. In a recent article in the *Pittsburg*, Tom Johnson takes exactly the same ground. He even advocates the proposition that The Independent made long ago that the government should cease giving special privileges to patentees and pay inventors a reasonable price for their inventions after which they should become public property. He declares that the patent laws have been a hindrance to advancement. It is an undisputed fact that in regard to the telegraph that is true. The Western Union has bought up and suppressed many valuable inventions connected with telegraphy. However it may be in regard to that matter, no one can dispute that the granting of privileges to private parties in transportation, in water works, in gas and electric lighting, has been productive of evil and only evil. In regard to these Mr. Johnson says:

'Municipal monopolies—they consist of rights and special privileges in the public streets and highways which, in the nature of the case, cannot be possessed by all the people and can be enjoyed by only a few. A constant struggle goes on to obtain such privileges, with the result of checking and retarding, for a long time, necessary public improvements. Rival claimants, not strong enough to obtain what they want, often succeed in checkmating each other at the expense of denying to the public needed advantages. Only a very slight observation of and reflection upon the needs of people crowded together in a city, as to facility of moving about, as to communication, as to supply of water, or of artificial light, is needed to satisfy any candid man that such businesses, in their nature, monopolistic. In other words, they can be carried on, with the best possible results to the public, under a single management and with a single consistent policy. Where competition prevails in such matters, almost invariably the public is benefited and the private party is injured. Whenever there is unity, the condition of things is much better. My proposition on this subject is to enlarge the functions of municipalities so that the means of transportation and communication and the supply of water and of light shall be furnished by a single authority and not by private enterprise, and extend this principle to its logical result, of taking under public administration all businesses which require the grant of any special right or privilege.'

'We have already started on this road and made considerable progress. The cities that water supply is a public business, in some cities gas and electric lights are manufactured and furnished by public authority; in many cities of Europe and Australia street railroads are owned and operated by the public. Why not go on in this direction till there shall be no more private property in special grants or franchises and till all business requiring such grants shall be carried on by the municipalities? Under present conditions the adoption of this policy would require the taking over by the public only of the water, gas, electric light and power supply and of the telephone and street railroads. The evils which afflict many timid people, and as likely to arise from enlarging the scope of the functions