

The Nebraska Independent.

VOL. XIII.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, AUGUST 8, 1901.

NO. 11.

MORE AMERICAN HOMES

Resolutions of the Irrigation Congress Demanding that the Deserts be Made Abiding Places for Man

The irrigation discussion at the trans-Mississippi commercial congress, recently assembled at Cripple Creek, Colo., was attended with no little interest and enthusiasm. The practical outcome was the fall and strong endorsement by the trans-Mississippi congress of the national irrigation policy which, in effect, insures an aggressive campaign before the next congress at Washington, to secure substantial appropriations for beginning the great work of the reclamation of the arid region.

The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted amid much enthusiasm. They contain the demand for government assistance and the request for the adoption of the national system.

Whereas, The rural homes of the country are the safeguards of the nation, and the congestion of population in the great cities of the east is a growing menace to the stability of our republican institutions, and there is no longer a outlet upon the public lands in their present condition for our surplus population; and

Whereas, The homestead act was the outgrowth of the genius of the American people for home-building, and the marvelous development of population and wealth in the great prairie states of the west and the wonderful growth of Oklahoma stand as striking proofs of the beneficent results of this act, and the rush for homes on the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache reservations has been so great as to compel the government to resort to a lottery drawing to apportion the available lands among the thousands who are seeking homes here; and

Whereas, Two-thirds of the whole western half of the United States, a vast area of over 629,600,000 acres, is still public land and belongs to the whole people of the country, and 109,000,000 acres of it can be reclaimed by irrigation, and the water which would irrigate it runs annually to waste; and

Whereas, If the national government would build the great reservoirs and main-line canals necessary to bring the water within reach of settlers on the public lands, so that the settlers could build their own distributing systems as the early settlers in Utah, California, Montana, Arizona, and other sections of the west have done, these public lands which are now arid and uninhabitable would be reclaimed and settled up by actual settlers and home-builders just as fast as the great reservoirs and main line canals could be built; and

Whereas, The settlement of these arid lands would absorb the surplus of the ordinary farm products of the irrigated lands of the west, so that any competition between the farmers of the west and the farmers of the east would be absolutely impossible; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we urge upon the American people and the congress of the United States the overwhelming importance and necessity of the adoption of the national irrigation policy as advocated by the national irrigation association for the reclamation and settlement of the arid region of the United States by the preservation of the forests as sources of water supply, and the building of reservoirs by the national government for storing the flood waters of the west, as recommended in the Chittenden report, and also the construction of great reservoirs and main line canals by the national government wherever necessary to furnish water for the reclamation and settlement of the arid public lands so as to bring the water within reach of settlers, and the holding of such lands for actual settlers only, under the homestead act, who will go upon the land and build their homes there, thus opening up opportunities for millions now homeless, and giving to every one who wants it a chance to have a home on the land, thereby creating a dense population in the arid region, which will enormously increase the home markets for the products of all our eastern factories, and contribute to the general prosperity of the entire country.

These resolutions rang with the "home building idea, and their reading to the convention was greeted with applause.

INDIANA DEMOCRATS

A Hot Old Time in Every Town in the State and the Editors Were Hot Shot in Every Direction

Private letters and copies of Indiana papers that have been sent to the Independent indicate that there is about as hot a time politically in that state as has ever been known since the civil war. It came about by the hearty endorsement of the work of the Ohio convention by the Indianapolis Sentinel. The Sentinel, while it has tried to keep itself with the democratic fold has really been in sympathy with the republicans for many years and this open repudiation of the principles upon which the party

has made its two last presidential campaigns has stirred up the Bryan democrats in a way to make it exceedingly uncomfortable. Many of the country weeklies have taken a hand in pounding this old plutocratic advocate until his eyes are almost bugged up. The following is what the Plymouth Democrat has to say to it:

"We are aware that the district meetings at the state convention were so manipulated by the 'reorganizers' as to secure the appointment of a delegation favorable to the republican theory on that subject. The state convention was practically controlled by those in favor of the gold standard. Shively was forced out of the race for governor because of his well-known views on the silver question, and the state committee was organized and its operations during the campaign, so far as the chairman was concerned, was the willing tool of the 'reorganizers' about Indianapolis, were conducted on the theory that it would be better to allow the republican party to be successful than that those favoring the free coinage of silver should succeed. The result showed that this plan was carried out to the letter. The state went republican by about 27,000, and as a reward of merit Governor Mount, immediately after the result of the election was made known, appointed the chairman of the democratic committee to the position of state tax commissioner at a salary of \$2,000 per year."

"As we have said heretofore there is no doubt that the reorganizers will control the party organization next year. The loyal democrats who have held the party together during the past two national campaigns will quietly step aside and allow them to manage the party machinery to suit themselves. What the outcome will be, time alone will tell.

"The Sentinel, having aligned itself with the gold-bug bolters and the republican platform of the last national and state democratic platforms who are in full harmony with Mark Hanna and the republican party on the financial question, must bear its part of the disastrous results that are certain to follow.

"But until the democrats of Indiana hold another state convention in 1902, and adopt a new declaration of principles in harmony with Editor Morss' 'Dead and Buried Issue,' until the democrats of the whole United States meet in national convention in 1904 and adopt a new declaration of principles, we shall be compelled to stand by the state and national platforms of 1900, and dictums of Mr. Morss and the Ohio democratic convention to the contrary notwithstanding.

"Because Mr. Morss repudiates the action of the last democratic state and national platforms, and because the Palmer and Buckner bolters of 1896 packed the Ohio state convention and repudiated Bryan and the Kansas City platform, is no reason why we, or any other loyal democrat, should repudiate them in the interest of the republican party—for that is what it amounts to."

SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY

The Farmers Have Been Doing What They Could For Many Years and Now the Government Takes a Hand

There is no doubt that there are more trees in Nebraska today than when the Indians roamed the plains unmolested by the white man. That is true of no other state. In the east they have been denuding the land of trees and rendering much of it uninhabitable for a century. The pioneers of Nebraska were all poor men, but they did what they could to preserve the original trees and planted as many more as they were able to do with their limited means. What has been done, written and said in Nebraska has stirred up public sentiment elsewhere.

The growth of public sentiment in regard to the practical nature of forestry and its relation to national industries is illustrated by the fact that on July 1 the forestry division of the interior department was made into a bureau. As against former appropriations of \$28,520 it now has an appropriation of \$185,440. The eleven employees of the division have been increased to 125 in the bureau. There are now thirty-nine forest reserves, containing 48,830,129 acres, or approximately 73,172 square miles. The general purpose of the new bureau is to devise and carry out plans for the proper protection and extension of the forest areas of the country, to stop the useless and wasteful cutting of timber, to check forest fires and in every manner possible to encourage the planting and growth of trees. It will be its aim to assist and work in harmony with the states which have forestry laws, and nearly all the trans-Mississippi states have. But, important forestry is in the arid regions, and intimate as its relation to irrigation and the water supply, and as a consequence, to agriculture, horticulture and grazing, interest in the work of this bureau is not confined to this region. Many of the eastern states are becoming intensely concerned in the matter of forest fires and are endeavoring to repair the damage which has been done by the ruthless work of a previous generation. All industries, the water supply, climatic considerations, combine to render forestry a live topic in the popular mind. The practical outcome is a forestry bureau, and before it is a wide field for work.

The educational features of "Our Islands and Their People" are invaluable to the progressive American citizen. It is a superb addition to any library. If you desire full information respecting this unique high grade work, write The Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

MAKING THE FUR FLY

The Bryan Democrats of Indiana Put on Their War Paint, Dig up Their Hatchets and go for Morss and the Sentinel

From several Indiana papers that have come to The Independent during the week it is very plain that there is a red hot time down in Indiana among the democrats. The Indianapolis Sentinel came out boldly for the McLean faction in Ohio, and then the fun began. The following article is clipped from the Greenfield (Ind.) Tribune:

Hon. S. E. Morss, editor in chief of the Indianapolis Sentinel, seems to have become somewhat nettled at the universal criticism of his course in recent days, which comes from all sides, and, in his evident fit of temporary anger, he has said some things that will not tend to heal the old sores, and to bring him a following of any great strength.

In the issue of the Sentinel of July 19 he volunteers some very emphatic criticism of Mr. Bryan for declaring that the money question is not out of politics. Moreover, Morss reckons without his host when he declares that he speaks for the democracy of Indiana, "the rank and file, the boys in the trenches," etc.

This, the Sentinel has not done since the campaign of 1892, at that time, the democrats of the state followed Grover Cleveland, because they thought he was a friend to the common people, but they soon found him to be a sanguinary-handed traitor to every principle of democracy, and they repudiated him at once and with emphasis.

Morss, however, floated on flowery beds of ease into a \$50,000 office, although on last Monday he declared he had never been an office-seeker, and in 1894 the Sentinel upheld the course of Cleveland, as its files will readily show, but the voters over the state nuked him on election day and the republicans carried the state by a big round majority, which shows conclusively that Mr. Morss did not speak for "the rank and file and the boys in the trenches," etc.

The Sentinel continued to advocate a republican policy, as practiced by Grover Cleveland, from that time forward to the end of the Chicago convention in 1896. The columns of the files of the Sentinel of that time will show some stronger editorials in favor of the gold standard than can be found in that most wickedly brilliant plutocratic organ, the Indianapolis News, and everybody with a thimble full of common sense knows that the consequence is that the lies and the lies in the democratic dailies the same as in the plutocratic sheets. The only way to get the news and get it correct, is to take a weekly like The Independent where every item is scanned before it goes into the paper by the responsible editor, who has time to lay it over for a day or two, think it over and investigate.

TO ENSLAVE LABOR

Every Trust is Backing Morgan and Schwab and Will Inaugurate Similar Policies if the Steel Trust Succeeds

Washington, D. C., Aug. 3.—After weeks of conference and skillfully managed delay on the part of the steel trust, it has at last thrown down the gauntlet to its men and declares that it will only treat with them as individuals instead of dealing with their unions according to long established custom when the trade was in the hands of individual capitalists.

The trust has intended to do this from the beginning, but it shrewdly delayed the crisis until it should have made every possible provision for crushing the employees into the kind of submission where they will be glad to accept work at any wages under any conditions which the trust chooses to offer.

We are now on the eve of one of the greatest labor struggles which this country has ever witnessed. There is no presidential campaign pending and Mark Hanna and Platteau Morgan will not exert themselves for peace as they did during the great miners' strike last year.

It may be that there will be less display of military force than during the great Chicago strike of '93 or the memorable Homestead affair. The fact that many of the plants are located in Ohio and in that state an election is pending is one reason why the trust prefers to pursue its war without a display of armed force. But it will be bitter and unrelenting war just the same.

The trust, by refusing to treat with the representatives of its employees, lays down the rule that organizers are a good thing for itself, but is to be denied to the wage worker.

The trust has many advantages in its attempt to crush its employees into submission. It can curtail production and shut down various plants indefinitely. Its situation is a most potent weapon and it will be used upon the men. Then, too, it has systematically offered bribes to a small proportion of skilled employees in order to keep them as teachers for what new help can be procured. In mills where the men did not all belong to the union of their craft, the trust has, within the past three weeks, been presenting with "ironclad" agreements by which they pledge themselves not to join a labor union as a condition of employment.

The trust will next stipulate to what political party and what church they shall belong as a condition of employment. The trust does not want to go abroad for skilled American workmen who no peers anywhere, either for quantity or quality of work. It simply desires to keep these men in a state of industrial serfdom where they will continue to produce millions for their masters and like slaves—be permitted only to retain enough to support life and reproduce their kind.

All classes of citizens are profoundly concerned in this attempt of the steel trust to take from its employees their rights as citizens. It is only the beginning of the trust crusade against individual liberty. We must have men friendly to trust interests in state and national halls of legislation. It will squeeze the consumer by charging any price it chooses for its products and making them of any quality which offers most profit.

There is not a wage worker in the country who has independence and manliness enough to value his rights as a citizen, who does not view with alarm this action of the steel trust. Not only may the present strike spread and involve many beside those directly interested, but what the iron and steel trust does will be followed by the others.

The trusts look to the administration and the republican party to protect and promote them in their nefarious designs upon the liberties of the people. The wage workers and the great middle class of consumers see no hope except in the honesty, courage and energy of the democratic party. There is no doubt but the trust issue is overshadowing every other domestic problem. The democratic party stands for the liberties of the common people, but it cannot neglect any step in the way of thorough and harmonious organization and it can every force which is hostile to trust domination.

The civilized world stands aghast at the unblinking confession of the tory government of Great Britain that it is arming the savage negroes of the islands inhabited by the Boschs who can be neither conquered nor bribed into submission. This is an absolute violation of the conventions of war, and may prove the last straw to bringing about the long-threatened-European intervention.

This effect it will certainly have, that the Dutch of Cape Colony and Natal who have hitherto held sullenly aloof will take up arms not alone for their suffering kinsmen of the Orange Free State and Transvaal, but in defense of their own existence. The blacks outnumber the whites in South Africa five to one, and white man's government in South Africa rests upon the subordination of the black. There are 150,000 fighting Dutch in Cape Colony and Natal who have not yet taken up arms. Great Britain is compelled to withdraw 40,000 troops to guard against trouble on the African frontier of India. The outlook for British supremacy in South Africa is black indeed.

Trust magnates seem to have no trouble to obtain injunctions forbid-

ONWARD WE MARCH

The Largest and Most Enthusiastic Populist State Committee Meeting Ever Held for the Purpose of Calling a Convention

If any one had any doubt that the populists of this state intended to fight this battle for reform to a glorious finish, that doubt would have been instantly banished the moment he looked in upon the large, earnest and enthusiastic body of intelligent men who had gathered at the Grand hotel in Lincoln yesterday for the purpose of calling a state convention and renewing the battle which has raged for the last ten years in the state of Nebraska. It was a large body of sound, safe, intelligent and sane men who would command respect anywhere. It was the largest state committee meeting ever held by the populists of this state where the only business was to fix a date and call a state convention. Every man there was enthusiastic and not one of them had a doubt but the fusion forces would carry the state this fall by the largest majority with which they ever won a victory.

The meeting was opened by listening to an address from a gentleman from Missouri, who advocated the organization of a new party, which, when organized, should fuse with no other party. He was listened to with great respect, but the populists who were present—many of them gray-haired men who had fought for reform for two decades and knew something of what it was to form a new party—had no idea of doing any such thing. They said that the situation in Missouri was very different from what it was in Nebraska, and while they extended to the gentleman their fullest sympathy they, one and all, refused to tear down the house over their heads and go out on the barren plains and try to build another. The populist mansion was still good enough for them to dwell in. No formal action was taken in the matter, the subject was simply dropped and business was taken up by considering a motion made by Mr. Felber to fix the date of the convention August 19 and the place at Lincoln.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. M. M. Chase, O. S. Gossard and George Horst, was appointed to convey this information to the democratic state committee which was in session at the Lillard hotel.

Mr. Kelley, of the Fremont Leader, was made secretary. The following letter was submitted by Colonel Eager and read:

To the State Committee, People's Independent Party, Lincoln, Neb.— Gentlemen: I regret that I cannot be present at your meeting, because I had hoped to make a complete report of the doings of the ways and means committee at this meeting. I shall, however, have everything in shape at the next meeting (at convention time, I suppose). Wishing you a successful meeting and anticipating fusion, and success this fall, I am, truly yours,

CHARLES Q. DE FRANCE.

This letter caused a general talk about the finances, which was continued at different times until near the close of the meeting. It was announced that there was still uncollected about \$1,300 of the debt and that while many counties had paid their proportion and some of them much more than their proportion that a good many had utterly failed to do their share and some of them the richest and most able to do so. A statement had been sent to the state committee in each county showing just what his county had paid and how much, if any, was still due. The determination was expressed on every hand that the debt must be paid in full. Suggestions were made that when the county conventions were held that the first business attended to be before any nominations were made that the subject should be presented to the convention by the committeeman or some one for him and an effort made to pay up the whole thing.

As to future expenses the member from Saunders county moved that each county send to the convention two dollars for each delegate to which the county was entitled, to begin the next campaign with, so it could be on hand to start the work. He pointed out that this would be necessary as the convention was to be held very late and work should begin the next day after the nominations were made. This was unanimously agreed to and it was urged that that matter be attended to at the county conventions also.

The committee returned from its visit to the allied camp of the democrats and silver republicans, reporting that they preferred to have the convention on September 18. A short discussion followed in which it was pointed out that the 18th was on Wednesday and as our whole press was composed of weekly papers that would delay getting the news to our voters for a whole week and considering how short the campaign would be, it would be a decided disadvantage. Word to that effect was sent to the allied camps with the suggestion that the populists thought that Tuesday, the 17th, would be much better, which suggestion was immediately agreed to. So it was finally settled that the convention would be held in Lincoln, September 17, at the Auditorium, and the democrats would hold theirs at the same time at the Oliver theatre, the use of both of which were given free by the citizens of Lincoln.

A question was then raised by John O. Yeiser of Omaha which was discussed for some time. As the readers of this paper know, Mr. Yeiser has made the claim that there is a vacancy in the office of governor that should be filled at the first general election. The

(Continued on page 8.)

THE STRIKE SITUATION

Every Union Man Employed by the Steel Trust Ordered Out—Numerous Strikes all over the Country

The labor situation all over the United States is the most serious it has ever been. There seems to be a determination in the ranks of organized labor to make a final stand against the trusts and win, or go down to the depths of wage slavery. Every thinking man has long known that such a crisis would follow the universal inauguration of the trust system. If the trusts were to combine business and manufacturing, it was a necessity that labor should also combine. What the result will be no man knows. If organized labor is really in earnest in their fight against the determined men who head the steel trust, there will be such a contest as the world never saw before. Men like Morgan and Schwab with millions upon millions back of them are powerful enough to cow every politician in the land. Not a politician from the members of McKinley's cabinet down to the ward workers in the republican party dare utter a word against the steel trust.

Not a daily paper in the land has yet had the courage to put up a fight against them or do or print anything that would be a serious detriment to the trust. It has behind it the courts, the army, the McKinley administration. On the other side, there are only a few thousand working men. The situation is much like it was in South Africa when the great English empire resolved to crush out those two little republics.

In California the situation begins to look very ugly. The strike there has grown to such proportions that business is largely suspended. It includes the contractors who are building warships as well as all business engaged in the transfer of goods. In South Carolina, the strikers have been captured and sent to sea—kidnapped and transported to nobody knows where. They were mostly Cubans. The strike order issued by the steel workers is as follows:

"Brethren: The officials of the United States steel trust have refused to recognize as union men those who are now striving for the right to organize. The executive board has authorized me to issue a call upon all amalgamated and other union men in name and heart to join in the movement to fight for labor's rights.

"We must fight or give up forever our personal liberties.

"You will be told that you have signed contracts, but you never agreed to surrender those contracts to the United States steel corporation. Its officers think you were sold to them, just as the mills were, contracts and all.

"Remember, before you agreed to any contract you took an obligation to the amalgamated association. It now calls you to help in this hour of need. Unless the trouble is settled on or before Saturday, August 10, 1901, the mills will close when the last turn is made on that day.

"Remember, this is the call to preserve our organization. We trust you and need you. Come and help us and may right come to a just cause. Fraternal-ly yours,

T. J. SHAFFER."

Hammering Bryan

Mr. Bryan may object all he chooses to having his personality brought into a campaign, but it will be put there just the same. Those in the democratic party who were opposed to him in 1896 and 1900, cannot content themselves with adopting a meaningless platform and going after the republican party, but they keep continually hammering away at Bryan. This forces his friends to retaliate, and thus the personality of the late candidate is kept before the people, no matter what his wishes may be in the matter.—Greenfield (Ind.) Tribune.

Mules Packing Libraries

All this array of professors, all this paraphernalia learning, cannot educate a man. They can but help him to educate himself. Here you may obtain the tools; but they will be useful only to him who can use them. A monkey with a microscope, a mule packing a library, are fit emblems of the men—and unfortunately, they are plenty—who pass through the whole educational machinery, and come out by learned tools crammed with knowledge which they cannot use—all the more pitiable, all the more contemptible, all the more in the way of real progress, because they pass with themselves and others, as educated men.—Henry George.

Monopolists Right

Trust magnates seem to have no trouble to obtain injunctions forbid-

FAKE INTERVIEWS

They Have Grown so Numerous That Mr. Bryan is Forced to Denounce Them

The Independent has frequently called attention to the unreliable news furnished by the Associated press. Matters seem to be growing worse, for a flood of fake interviews and false reports of speeches made by democrats and populists have been sent out during the last few weeks. Mr. Bryan denounces this in an editorial in The Commoner as follows:

"Just now the republican papers and those so-called democratic papers which spend their time in defending

republican policies, are publishing fake interviews with democrats, populists and silver republicans, calculated to stir up dissensions among those who are opposing the administration.

"The meanest and most malicious of the false reports recently put into circulation was that statement attributed to ex-Senator Towne just after the Ohio convention. In this purported interview Mr. Towne was made to predict the success of the reorganizers, the nomination of Mr. Hill and the breaking up of the democratic party. All vitals instead of dealing with their unions according to long established custom when the trade was in the hands of individual capitalists.

"As soon as this falsehood had time to get over the whole country another enterprising preparator came forward with a statement attributed to Mr. J. G. Johnson, the Kansas member of the democratic national committee, in which he was reported as saying unkind things of Mr. Towne and Mr. Webster Davis. The editor of The Commoner has become so accustomed to misrepresentation that he has not been interviewed on political views, but he refers to them for the benefit of readers who having had less experience in the political methods of republican and gold papers have been disturbed by them. The Commoner is authorized to state that both of these pretended interviews were absolutely false. Mr. Towne says that he has not been interviewed on politics within three months and that the report sent out from New York was a pure fake."

"Mr. Johnson is equally explicit in his denial of the interview attributed to him.

"The democrats, populists and silver republicans are unfortunate in that they have so few democratic dailies of large circulation. There seems to be a concerted effort on the part of the republican and gold standard papers to mislead the people as to public sentiment, and those who believe in democratic principles and desire genuine reform must rely almost wholly upon the weekly papers or upon the smaller dailies. For this reason it is the more important that the faithful and loyal papers should receive the earnest and cordial support of true democrats."

There is one other thing that Mr. Bryan does not mention. The democratic dailies—what few there are of them—have wholly at the mercy of the Associated press. They must rely upon it for all their general news. Suppose that during the night an interview comes among the rest of the dispatches, how is the telegraph editor to know that it is a fake? He don't know, and the consequence is that the lies and the lies in the democratic dailies the same as in the plutocratic sheets. The only way to get the news and get it correct, is to take a weekly like The Independent where every item is scanned before it goes into the paper by the responsible editor, who has time to lay it over for a day or two, think it over and investigate.

Somewhat Queer

The World-Herald unlimbered its heaviest guns and fired a few hot shot at Auditor Cornell who had not stolen anything, and a year or two later, he votes a column of sentiment to Bolin and Bartley who have stolen over a half million of public funds; much of it being state school money. The hot weather must be getting in its work on the gray matter of the staff.—Crete Democrat.

Rockefeller Gobbled It

By a neat trick, made possible by its enormous wealth, the Standard Oil company has headed off a threatening rival in the Texas oil fields and made itself absolute master of the situation. It has bought up the wharves, railroad terminals and shipping facilities at Fort Worth, the natural shipping port of the Beaumont field, together with 90,000 acres of land in the vicinity, which is doubtless located in such a manner as to preclude any attempt of the Texas oil men to establish a new outlet. It would not be profitable for them to ship their oil to tidewater as a more distant point, and hence they are at the mercy of the Standard and must sell their product to it at its own price. This is how the ideal trust overcomes competition.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Big Job Ahead

Captain H. N. Royden, the new recruiting officer at Omaha, entered on his duties last week. While in the Philippines Captain Royden was under General Bates, who had command of the islands inhabited by the Boschs, and for a time was provost marshal of the island of Jolo, one of the most important of the Sulu group, and one which the Spanish were unable to conquer in all of the time they held nominal possession of the Philippine islands.

The Dutch of affairs in the Philippines, Captain Royden said: "The people of this country have no idea of the size of the islands of the Philippine group and the amount of work that will be necessary to bring them absolutely under the sway of the United States. For this reason some of the newspapers reports sent out are amusing. The report that General Chaffee is planning to concentrate the troops now in the islands is one of these. Do you know that upon the island of Paragua, the third largest of the Philippine group, no United States soldiers have been sent, and another important island was entered by the troops of this country? When this is known and the number of islands taken into consideration the extent of the work ahead of the government can be in a slight degree comprehended."