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Bartley won't tell.
Millard won't tell.
Stuefer won't tell.
At last even Rosewater is for fusion in New York.

The Wharton Barker, Joe Parker, Clem Deaver and Missouri World outfit are still using the name "people's party."

The socialist editors "go for" Hearst's papers with as much vindictiveness as the regular plutocratic journals.

Did it ever occur to any of the plutocratic editors that noisome praise and disgusting flattery might excite an anarchist just as much as a severe criticism?

The republican party claims to be the party of congress. Lately it has given some evidence that it is. It has progressed far enough to get where the old democratic party camped on the tariff question about fifty years ago.

The republicans first adopted the populist financial theory in the main and now they propose to adopt the democratic theory concerning tariff legislation. Anything to get the offices.

The lesson of the Omaha primaries is this: Rosewater undertook to carry Ben Baker on one shoulder and Mayor Moores on the other. It was too big a load for the little man and he failed to get there.

The republican party having determined to come into the democratic camp almost in a solid body are using the word "reciprocity," both as a shield and a mask, behind which to hide while it makes the change of base.

The republicans of Iowa are now all for free trade under the name of reciprocity and will make a campaign upon it. At last they are camping where the democratic party camped thirty years ago. There's progress for you.

Mr. Bryan remarks in The Commoner that "the republican papers that were so quick to spread reports misrepresenting Chancellor Andrews on lying and anarchy are slow to publish his denials. Instead of excusing or defending either he denounced both."

If any one has any doubts about what the fate of this state will be under republican rule, he only needs to remember what that party did for it when it had undisputed control and what the same party has done for the state of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia.

When an English interest is at stake the doctrine "that blood is thicker than water" never has any influence in determining the result. Take the Alaska boundary for an instance. On other occasions the British statesmen and their American lackeys make a great deal of it.

A Lincoln republican remarked the other day: "Perhaps this may be a fusion year and I don't care much if it is. The closer and more doubtful this state is between presidential elections, the more federal appointments we will get." And "the more pensions for old soldiers," remarked a listener.

Republican city councils have degenerated to the point where they will speculate upon the funeral decorations put up in memory of a murdered president. The Paterson, N. J. city council sent a bill for decorating the city hall in memory of McKinley for just twice as much as a contractor had agreed to do it for.

Rosewater still sticks to it that federal officials commissioned by President McKinley had to be paid money to get them to support the ticket. The Omaha federal offices must have been determined to take all the traffic would bear. That has always been the doctrine of the corporations that have supported the republican party.

THE CAMPAIGN

The question to be decided in this campaign is whether the people of the state are in favor of good government, honestly and efficiently administered, or desire the incompetency and needless cost that has been the distinguishing features of the state government since the "redeemers" took charge at the state house. Under the fusion state government, the bonded state debt was paid off, the apportionment to schools almost doubled, the cost per capita of maintaining the inmates of the prisons and asylums reduced almost one-half, every cent of the money paid by the tax-payers was honestly disbursed and not a cent lost by embezzlement or incompetency. Is that the kind of government that the people of this state want or do they want a government which through the incompetency of its employes causes loss to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars, that reduces the appropriations to the common schools, that holds up the money appropriated by the people's representatives for the maintenance of the university so that favorites of the party may get interest upon it?

Any man who has looked over the work of the last republican legislature knows that a debt was provided for of about a quarter of a million of dollars, that being the amount of the appropriations over what the tax levy will produce. Since that time, two of the great institutions of the state have been burned on account of the incompetency of the guards employed. During the fusion administration fires started several times in the different institutions, but the guards were on duty and they were extinguished before much damage was done, the most serious being when a laundry took fire which was located in a frame building, but it was extinguished and the building saved.

No state ever had a better government or a more economical one than the fusionists gave while they were in power. Although bitter slanders were circulated by the republican press and official investigations were had, the outcome of it all was that the republicans themselves were forced to report that not a cent of money had been diverted from the use to which it had been appropriated and no fusion office had been the cause of the state losing a cent.

The whole outlook after ten months of republican control has been changed. By the time the burned public buildings are replaced and the deficiencies are provided for, this state will have to face a new debt created under one two-year's term of republican rule of more than a million dollars. The question in this campaign therefore is not clouded. It is the plain proposition: Do you prefer an incompetent government that plunges the state into a fearful debt, that can't even run the penitentiary, but must secure the services of an old fusion employe to prevent the escape of all the convicts, or do you prefer an efficient government that gets the state out, instead of plunging it into debt?

BITTERNESS OF GALL

The hatred of the gold democrats for W. J. Bryan is a hatred so deep that it cannot be described. It has villainous and it has malignity that is fiendish. While many republican papers have said complimentary things about the conduct and words of Mr. Bryan during all the sad time after the president was shot, the gold democratic organs seek to employ the saddest of all calamities to make attacks upon him. If all the records of journalism is searched no such evidence of the most bitter hate can be found as in some expressions in the New York World, among which is the following:

"A devilish discontent with conditions logically due to ignorance, incompetency or sloth is the instrument of the evil one for fomenting anarchy and inciting pervers to assassination and other crimes.

"It seems to the World, therefore, that William J. Bryan made a serious mistake in saying at this time:

"While we are legislating to prevent any manifestation of the anarchistic spirit on American soil we should avoid those things which breed anarchy."

The malice of that editorial is only equalled by its want of logic. Does the World mean to say that we should not avoid those things which breed anarchy? The statement of Bryan was statesmanlike. The statement of the World only shows malice.

COLORADO POLITICS

Last winter the men who had been elected to the Colorado legislature as populists with perhaps one or two exceptions, announced that their adhesion to the democratic party and Tom Patterson, who was a populist, was elected United States senator. After that he also declared that hereafter he would affiliate with the democratic party. The Independent at that time declared that all that was ill advised and would tend not to harmonize the two parties in one body, but more likely end in a disruption. Last week a democratic convention assembled in Denver and now Patterson finds that it has made a bed for him which is too narrow, too short and full of chestnut burrs and he refuses to lie in it. Through the News

he refuses to support part of the ticket and has the following to say about the platform:

"The platform is as silent as the tomb upon every issue upon which the democratic party gained so signal a victory two years ago—the platform that pledged municipal ownership of all utilities and particularly of water; that pledged legislation to restrain the tramway within proper limits, and a policy of requiring full and fair compensation for all municipal franchises. Why so good a platform—one that gave so sweeping a victory to the county democracy two years ago—should have been broken up and laid carefully away, plank by plank, this year, perhaps the platform framers will explain.

"Perhaps the most ungenerous thing the convention could do it did. It declined to nominate either a former silver republican or populist. Neither did it in any way acknowledge the good work of either of its late political allies. Not a word was spoken in recognition of the signal services of the two other silver parties in the work of rescuing Colorado from the clutches of the gold power."

The Independent hopes to see the populists of Denver go to work and reorganize, put out a full ticket, placing such of the democratic nominees who are worthy of support upon it and fill up the remainder with good populists. It will take some years yet to educate some democrats up to the point where the populist party will no longer be necessary.

THE TERM "ANARCHIST"

The Independent has always held that mobs and gangs of lynchers were anarchists. The use of the term in that connection has been criticised. It is said that the men who engage in mobs and lynchings are not opposed to law, but are simply afraid that the law will not be enforced. Had the mob that burned a young negro at the stake in Colorado any fear that the criminal would not be convicted and punished? Had the mob at Leavenworth any such fear? None at all; and no one will even assert that it had. While they were engaged in their horrid work, they were anarchists and nothing but anarchists. In discussing this the Record-Herald says:

"It will not answer to differentiate and say that the term anarchist is properly used only of men who advocate the killing of kings and other rulers. There is complete anarchy in a district when a mob of lynchers defies the government, terrorizes the local authorities and murders a man with every species of atrocity. This would be true if the man were punished for a crime and his guilt were proved. But the anarchical character and tendency of the act is driven home upon the conscience with a special emphasis when it is known that the victims of these outbreaks of passion are sometimes killed though there is no proof against them. They may be absolutely innocent, and it is often the case that they are hanged for minor offenses."

The populist party has always stood for law and order—stood thus when assailed by every vile epithet that malice and hatred could invent. Lately the leading republican organs have begun to plead the baby act and whine about criticism and cartoons. Neither it nor its policies have ever been assailed with half the bitterness and vituperation that has been poured out upon the populist party. We never whined nor pleaded the baby act. We returned against the assaults sound arguments and cogent reasoning. We have never asked that a law be passed to suppress the publications of the banks and the trusts.

A NOTABLE EXCEPTION

In an article on "Individuality," Mr. O. S. Marden says in Success: "With some notable exceptions, newspapers lack individuality. Their opinions are impersonal, and the editors are lost. Few people know who writes the editorials or the leading articles. The days of Dana and Greeley and Bowles seem to have gone forever. Nobody in particular is responsible for any opinion or policy. Everything is referred to the stock-holders. Not only do the editors lose their individuality, but so also does every one who is connected with each paper."

It will be generally conceded that The Independent is one of "the notable exceptions." As for the great dailies, no one cares who writes the editorials for they are not of importance enough to attract the attention of thinking men. The great social questions of the day—the things of real interest—are on the "index expurgatorius" of every plutocratic journal in the land. The whole trouble arises from a subsidized press. When that policy was adopted by plutocracy it killed everything original and of interest that had before attracted the attention of thinking men.

The Associated press in reporting bond purchases finds it convenient not to say what premium was paid. It has suddenly dawned upon the "financiers" that 40 per cent premium paid to repurchase bonds issued only three or four years ago is such a very fat thing for bond-holders that it is not likely to be popular with the people.

HEAR THEM HOWL

The plutocratic press has engaged in a new performance during the last two or three weeks. It may be called a new repetition of the "Baby Act." It weeps over the degeneracy of the press, meaning that portion that has been assaulting the "greed and glory" ideas of the millionaires. Do these gentlemen remember so long ago as 1896? If anything in all the history of the world ever equalled the bitterness and vituperation that they employed at that time the historians have failed to record it. Men with world-wide reputations as educators and scholars, bankers of unsullied reputation, business men against whom a word of scandal had never before been uttered, were pursued as if they were wild beasts of the jungle. Their private characters were assailed, their fortunes were wrecked and in one or two instances they were hurried until they sank into early graves. Why? Because they took a position on a strictly scientific question that plutocracy thought was inimical to its interests.

The men who engaged in that are now talking like saints from heaven of the vituperation of the Hearst's papers! Never at any time has there been an article in those papers—or a cartoon for that matter—that approached in quality of the gall of bitterness, that these editors poured out upon the head of every prominent man whom they thought was opposed to the interests of the grabbers who would gather to themselves all the increased products of labor that has accrued from scientific discoveries and the inventions of the nineteenth century. Bryan was often, cartooned as a snake—a viper that had been warmed to life in the bosom of society—and now sought to sting to death his benefactor.

After having made a record of villainous that was never equalled—Lautenbeck, one of the chief managers of the republican campaign declared that if Bryan were elected he would never take his seat—they now set up a white about attacks upon public men. The opposition press has been a model of courtesy when compared with the hypocrites who set up a howl about Hearst's papers. The subsidized editors have been hit where it hurts. Not half of them could run their papers for a week if they had to rely upon the public for support. Let them still continue to "hyphenate" and draw upon the republican campaign fund to meet expenses, yes, and let them continue to howl. That is all that they are able to do. Not one of them can write a half column article on any economic question that could command the attention of a thinking man.

REPUBLICAN FINANCING

The wisdom of republican national financing is past finding out by any man who is endowed with common sense. Since the republicans gained control of the national government, four or five hundred million of bonds have been issued. The other day Secretary Gage went into the open market and bought back \$1,590,000 at \$140 flat. What common sense is there in issuing bonds and then buying them back at 40 per cent premium? Is there any common sense or any other kind of sense in such transactions as that? The men who invested in those bonds have been drawing their interest and now they are given a premium of nearly half their face value to get them back! No doubt the bond-holders think now, as they always have thought, that republican financing is the best in the world. But what do the people who have to pay the interest and the premiums that these bondholders get think of it? Those who belong to the populist party think that it is public robbery of the poor for the benefit of the rich. The masses who vote the republican ticket think that it is wisdom of the very highest order and any one who has the temerity to criticize it is encouraging anarchy and that on their heads rests in part the blood of the murdered president. Why they should think that way is another thing that no pop can find out.

THE TALE IS TOLD

Perhaps all that ever will be known is now known about the assassination of the president. It does not appear that there was any conspiracy, if there was, the authorities failed to find any proof of it. The most important fact developed is that in several states there are anarchist societies often holding meetings in which the murder of rulers is openly advocated. These societies are composed wholly of foreigners who have been given asylum in this country. Emma Goldman and those arrested in Chicago on charges of conspiracy have all been released and are now free to go about the country advocating murder the same as before.

As to the assassin, all the evidence goes to show that it was his own act which he committed without the assistance of others. He is a young man of feeble intellect and after his conviction, when being taken to the penitentiary where he will finally suffer death, almost totally collapsed. While the law cannot reach them, the real murderers of the president are Emma Goldman and those others who

preached the doctrine of murder to this weak man. That anything ever published in the papers, any cartoons or fierce discussions, had the least to do with the act of the young man has not been proved. That he ever saw a paper containing them has not been shown. All that is known is that he listened to speeches by Emma Goldman which he said "set his brain on fire."

That being the case, all the writing that has been done—and there have been hundreds of columns of it—to prove that any of the discussions between political parties in the United States or that any partisan publications had in the least influenced the act of the assassin, is simply waste of good white paper. Anarchists hate one government and one political party with the same fierceness that they do another. This writing has been for political effect and considering the circumstances, it is about the vilest sort of stuff that ever saw the light of day—not much differing in hate and falsehood from anarchy itself. The tale is told and it will pass into history.

In a private letter from a gentleman well known in Boston, Mass., occurs these sentences: "The earnest efforts of the authorities in the populist party in Nebraska which has no heavy contributors, to pay off its debt, commends it the business men to whose notice it has come. The party is poor, but it seems determined to pay its debts, which goes to show that the charge of 'repudiators' made against them was false."

Meserve held the treasury against the thieves for four years, during which time the state never lost a cent. Now he has invented a pocket-book which is about the neatest thing to save the cash ever invented. Those made for gentlemen are a sure thing to hold coin, and those for ladies—who always carry their pocket book in their hands—has a neat arrangement that prevents pocket-book snatching. It is called the 20th Century Coin Purse.

Several of the millionaires have lately been caught stealing contrary to law, among them Mr. Gates of the wire trust. He played the smuggler and got a lot of diamonds into the country without paying duty on them. But he was caught and had to put up \$27,000. He had been stealing according to law so long that he evidently arrived at the conclusion that a little stealing in defiance of law would not hurt his reputation.

If any slick-tongued stranger appears about the farm these days and wants to sell something and "take your note for it," don't shoot him on the spot, but kick him clear off the place and then set the dogs on him as he goes scooting down the road. There are reputable business men in your neighborhood who have everything that you need to buy, and who, if they don't make their guarantees good, you have some sort of a chance to get at them.

The coaling question seems to have been as serious a question with the fleet off Santiago as it is to the householders in Lincoln, with the odds in favor of the fleet as the coal trust did not have such a cinch on it as it has on the householders. The householders have to walk up and pay their tribute just as the French had to after the war with Germany. There has been a war made on the householders and they were utterly defeated. That war closed two years ago when the trusts carried the country and now they are collecting their war indemnity.

Sometimes it seems very strange to a pop that reason has so little to do with the conclusions of the followers of Mark Hanna. Thousands of them came to the conclusion that fusion was disreputable, immoral and altogether disreputable. They formed that conclusion from statements in the papers that they read. Now since they have learned that in several cities of the east where the republicans are in the minority, they have formed a fusion to get the offices, these people have suddenly changed their opinions and have come to the conclusion that fusion is all right, at least for the republicans.

Three or four of the trusts didn't come to time with their dividends at the last call, among them the Lined Oil trust, the Standard Rope and Twine, Amalgamated Copper and two or three smaller ones. This effort to pay dividends on stock watered three or four hundred per cent will prove a failure, although the trusts may force prices far above what they ought to be. That is what The Independent has been saying all the time. Watering stock is stealing—it may be stealing according to law—but nevertheless it is just plain larceny, whether it is done by Vanderbilt, Carnegie or J. Pierpont Morgan and the men who do it are thieves. They may escape punishment—many crimes go unpunished in this wicked world—but it is a crime. The people who they steal from are those persons who have invested their hard earned money in worthless stocks in one instance and the other, the persons who are forced to pay exorbitant prices for trust goods.

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INFAMY ACKNOWLEDGED
Republican politics sometimes get too foul for even Rosewater to stomach and he blurs out a protest. After that, he goes on supporting it as if nothing had happened. Rosewater made an address the other day and afterward printed it in his own paper. In this address Mr. Rosewater said that in order to induce certain men who held office under the republican administration to support the republican ticket, "the national committee had to send several thousand dollars to Omaha."

It should be remembered that in the law suit that so disgruntled Bishop Boncum, that there was no political question involved. It was a quarrel between the bishop and members of his own church, other Catholics who think that they are just as good Catholics as the bishop. The suit went against the bishop and then he took occasion to get even with the judge by denouncing him in a political letter, warning two conventions that were to meet in Lincoln not to dare to nominate him, although he well knew that the judge was not a candidate for nomination. Several bishops have engaged in fanciful antics during the last three or four years, but this last "takes the cake."

According to the republican editorial writers there was never a statesman or patriot in all the history of the United States whose speeches and writings did not have a tendency to breed anarchy and who was not guilty of appealing to class prejudices. Among those who were guilty of this was William McKinley. The following is a sample of his anarchy-breeding speeches which all the republican editors now denounce. But a few years ago Mr. McKinley said:

"Human rights and privileges must not be forgotten in the mad race for wealth. The government of the people must be by the people, and not by a few of the people. Power, it must be remembered, which is secured by oppression and usurpation, or by any form of injustice, is soon overthrown."

The republican papers are very fond these days of calling attention to the fact that Secretary Gage has been reducing the national debt. They are not so fond of telling that to reduce the national debt \$33,000,000, he has paid out over \$40,000,000 which is a clean gift to the bond-holders of \$10,000,000 in the premiums that he has paid. To make gifts of the money taxed out of the people of the United States to bond-holders is the very acme of republican financing. The excuse that is given for buying in government bonds at 40 per cent premium may fool the mule heads, but it will fool no one else. Any man with a government bond would be glad to deposit it as security and take that much money out of the treasury and there are a dozen other ways that money could be kept from piling up in the treasury.

WITH REGRET
As soon as the article in the World-Herald attacking the populist platform and defending the Millard-Bartley transaction appeared every reasonable man knew that a blow had been struck at the reform forces in this state that might prove serious. It is with the deepest regret that The Independent is forced to take this matter up, for it is an unpleasant thing to have to defend the party from onslaughts made by the only daily of general circulation in the state which has been considered an advocate of the fusion cause. Protestations were expected from the thousands of populists—who have with some misgivings agreed to keep up the fusion movement in this state—against this course of the World-Herald, but they

The whole effort of the plutocratic press is now expended in trying to convince the American people that free speech breeds anarchy. In regard to that, Dr. Washburn, Mr. Roosevelt's pastor, in his memorial discourse at Oyster bay, said: "Neither a free press nor free speech is responsible for anarchy or for the crimes committed in its name. Anarchy does not exist because of a free press and free speech. It did not have its origin here, but it grew up in the poverty, ignorance and lack of moral

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