are to be pitied. The populists would have but one telephone company, not one for each city, but only one for the whole country. That company should do all the business and no others should be allowed in the land and it should be owned and operated by the government.

A writer in a Chicago paper says: "Three years ago last August we bought a ton of hard coal for $4.75; today you can't buy a like amount for less than $7, and many places $7.25. Where does this difference of $2.50 go to? Do the hard-working coal diggers get it? Nay. Does the demand so tremendously exceed the supply, or is there a scarcity that warrants this advance? Last, but not least, have we got to pay what the coal trust demands?" The Independent answers by saying that the price that the coal trust demands will have to be paid until a substitute for coal is found or we get a new attorney general who will enforce the law against trusts.

The mid-road democrats in Douglas county have been squelched and the populists have been given a satisfactory representation on the ticket. If the populists will put up the same kind of a fight in Cuming county they may get their lights up there. However, if the democrats up there persist in their course there will be no way out of the difficulty but to put up a straight populist ticket in Cuming county and let the West Point ring know whether there are any populists in that county or not. In one or two other counties the populists have been playing hog in the same manner and The Independent has no more sympathy for them than it has for the mid-road democrats.

The board knowledge of economics and keen insight into financial affairs that the editors of great dailies sometimes display is somewhat astonishing. Bryan bought out a paper that was about to suspend for the sum of five dollars. Immediately the economic and financial writers of the "sound money" papers announced that Bryan had formed a newspaper trust and was making himself the head and director of the worst octopus that ever afflicted the American people. When this editor meets St. Peter at the gate and tells him that his occupation on earth forced him to read many columns of republican editorials, if the saint is the sort of a man that he is represented to be, he will say: "Walk in and take a seat high up among the angels. You have already suffered more than the torments of the damned. There is no purgatory for you."

The Lincoln Gas and Electric Light company proposes to make the citizens of this town pay interest on $1,500,000 capitalization for a plant that never cost one-third of that amount. That is the trust program all over the country and every effort made by the fusion forces of the state to stop that sort of robbery has met with the bitter hostility of the republican newspapers and the leaders of the republican party. The boodle that these thieves thought they could force out of the people of this city was so big that the robbers have quarrelled among themselves and one of them is sueing the others for his share. The plain statement is made in the papers that the stock has been watered to an enormous extent. As this town has about 1,000 republican majority always standing up for the trusts, it is no wonder that these men thought that such mullet head ground would give them a rich harvest. If an effort were made for the city to take charge of the plant and furnish light and fuel gas for one-tenth what they now pay, nine-tenths of them would vote against it. That is the quality of brains that is held in the skulls of republican majorities.

A lady writes a letter to The Independent in which she says that a judge and two lawyers forced her to commit perjury. She says that she was sworn to "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth," and that she endeavored to keep her oath, but the judge and the lawyers would not let her. She was only permitted to tell part of the truth and not the whole truth, that when she persisted in endeavoring to do so, she was stopped and the judge threatened to commit her for contempt. She feels certain that if she had been permitted to tell the whole truth and not part of it only, that the jury would have brought in a different verdict. She was only permitted to answer such questions as the lawyers asked and they did not ask questions that would bring out the whole truth. She thinks "that something ought to be done to that judge and those two lawyers" for forcing her to commit perjury. All The Independent can say is that such things sometimes do happen in our courts, but the lady need not feel conscience-stricken. The wrong, if one was committed, was the crime of the judges and lawyers and she will not be called to account for it in that higher court of equity, in whose precincts lawyers are very scarce.

Hardy's Column

Party Criticism—The Seven Ancient Wonders.

The republican head leaders, orators and editors try hard to hinge the assassination of President McKinley onto the Bryan party. They never dare to quote a word that Bryan ever spoke or wrote. They blame the party as a whole for discussing or criticising the administration of the McKinley party. Never a word has been said against the personal character of Mr. McKinley, save only his changes of speech upon important public questions. Several times he talked on one side of a question and in less than ten years he talked on the other side. The republicans better not complain of Bryan men for abusing leading republicans, for they, themselves, have talked and written ten times meaner things about Bryan and his followers and their political doctrine advocated. The New York Tribune is considered one of the sweetest-mouthed republican journals in the United States, with nothing yellow mixed in. We give below a short editorial which appeared in the Tribune just after the presidential election in 1896. In speaking of Bryan's nomination and the millions of votes he received, the Tribune said:

"The thing was conceived in iniquity and was brought forth in sin. It had its origin in a malicious conspiracy against the honor and integrity of the nation. It gained such monstrous growth as it enjoyed from an assiduous culture of the basest passions of the least worthy members of the community. It has been defeated and destroyed because right is right and God is God. Its nominal head was worthy of the cause. Nominal, because the wretched, rattle-pated boy, posing in rapid vanity and mouthing resounding rottenness, was not the real leader of the league of hell. He was only a puppet in the blood imbued hand of—the anarchist and—the revolutionist and other desperadoes of that stripe. But he was a willing puppet, Bryan was, willing and eager. Not one of his masters was more apt than he at lies, forgeries and blasphemies and all the nameless iniquities of that campaign against the Ten Commandments. He goes down with the cause, and must abide with it in the history of infamy."

Now who should complain if we take such an editorial as our guiding star. No purer, spotless personal character can be found today on the face of the earth than that of W. J. Bryan. False statements cannot be traced to his tongue or pen. Neither party had personal mud to sling as when Blaine and Cleveland ran. It is not a very sure indication that Bryan and his cause have gone down in infamy while two republican presidents stand up and talk against tariff and trusts just as he does. Bryan still lives and he worries the millionaire republicans more than any other hundred men.

Away back in the dark ages, two or three thousand years ago, they had what was known as seven world wonders, but one of which stands today and but two or three were of any utility. Two were temples for heathen worship and one a light tower on a small island near the mouth of the River Nile and all the rest were built for vain glory. The temple of Jupiter, at Athens, was undoubtedly the most extensive building of the age. Large buildings in those days were built more like high fences with an open unroofed space in the center. The most wonderful part of this temple was its two hundred stone columns, seventy feet high, six feet in diameter, each of one solid block of granite. Next to the stone columns was the statue of Jupiter which was also of stone. Jupiter was a fabled god and counted the father or god of all other Greek gods. They gave him the credit of running the lightning and thunder, the wind and storm and to hold under his control the big machinery of the universe. There were scores of leper gods which the Greeks worshipped. When Paul visited Athens idols and images were more numerous in temples and on the public streets than men.

The other temple that attracted the world's attention was that of the goddess of Diana, at Efesus in Asia Minor. Her temple, though less in size, was more beautiful and more richly ornamented. Diana was the fabled wife of Jupiter and run the domestic machinery of the world. Paul put in his work here, too, ruined the silver god makers business and turned their idolatry upside down, as in Athens. Such temples would not be much of a wonder today. The new St. Paul church in Lincoln would outrank them.

The most useful ancient wonder was the Egyptian high tower, located on a small island near the mouth of the Nile. The name of the island was Taros. The tower was two hundred feet high, about half the height of the Washington monument. A fire was kept burning on top, which served as a beacon to Mediterranean sailors.

The Colossus of Rhodes was a brazen image of a man standing one foot on each side of the entrance to the small Grecian harbor of Rhodes. It was about a hundred feet high, built of sheats of brass rivited together. There was an inside ladder up which visitors could climb and look out upon the sea through its eyes. It was of no utility. An earthquake toppled it over and it was sold for old brass.

The hanging garden of Babylon was another useless wonder. It did not hang at all, but was supported by masonry. The sides were terrassed from bottom to top. Some ancient writers deny that there ever was any such thing. Others say that it was built by Nebuchhaduezer to please one of his queens who was reared in the mountains. There are many gardens in Nebraska more wonderful.

The Mansoleum of Halicarnossus, in Asia Minor, erected by Queen Artemesia to the memory of her dead husband was another ancient wonder. In size and form it resembled the Douglass mounment in Chicago. The carvings were wonderful. Dogs, cattle, horses and wild animals were carved. It cannot be said that the memory of our illustrious dead is worthless. The memory of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln will ever have a refining and elevating influence upon this nation.

The seventh and last of the ancient wonders was the pyramids of Egypt. After three thousand years of torrid sun and drifting sand they still stand; all the other six have faded and gone. There are some sixty or seventy of them, big and little. Their utility has not been discovered unless they were the tombs of kings and other noted persons. All a great labor of foolishness. Next week we will write about some of the modern useful wonders.

He Got Married

Col. Frank D. Eager, proprietor and publisher of the Nebraska Independent, has taken in a partner in his business. In other words, becoming tired of cold lunches and cold feet, Frank has gone and got married. It was not known by his most intimate friends that he contemplated any such rash act. The suspicion was pretty strong, however, as an elegant residence near the corner of F and 14th streets has been erected under his supervision this season. Miss Bertha Donzella Sawyer, of Western, Neb., is the lady chosen for the happy bride, and Mr. and Mrs. Eager are now off on their mellifluous moon. The first quarter will be spent in New Orleans and Cuba, the second and third in the principal cities of the east; and may no fourth quarter, or dark moon, ever darken their nocturnal peregrinations. We are entirely unacquainted with Mrs. Eager, nee Miss Sawyer, but besides no doubt her many other attractions, the "Donzella" had something to do with the match. It sounds kind of Spanish-like, and Frank being a member of the fighting First Nebraska in the Spanish war, may have had a lingering fondness for anything Spanish.

But here is luck and long life to Mr. and Mrs. Eager. Frank's ventures have always been lucky. May his latest prove to be his best investment, yielding the largest per cent of net profit.—Nebraska Post.

A Most Liberal Offer

All of our readers who are sick or in poor health will be interested in the announcement in this issue from the Theo. Noel Company, headed "Personal to Subscribers." This company is the proprietor of Vitae-Ore, a remarkable mineral remedy, which they offer to send on thirty days' trial to every reader of this paper. Many have used this medicine and are familiar with its merits, but those who have not should not fail to avail themselves of this most liberal offer. The company is reliable, have what they claim and will do as they agree.

HAY-PAUNCEFOTE COMBINATION

England Long Ago Violated and Repudiated the Clayton-Bulwer and Now Wants to Revive it

Editor Independent: The time for congress to meet is approaching and the republican diplomats of the Associated press are at work. On October 7th they say, "that Great Britain consents to abrogate the Clayton-Bulwer treaty without any consideration at all in return," while on the 8th of October they say, "that Great Britain holds all rights and does not back down at all in its contentions that the Nicaragua canal must be a neutral water way," and much more of the same sort.

I think I can say without fear of successful contradiction that the American people are utterly disgusted with Great Britain's contests over in America. True, our department of state has been hood-winked in the Alaska business, notwithstanding the fact that monuments of the Russian survey under which we obtain title, are yet to be found east of Dawson, but if I mistake not, the people will not tolerate a repetition of such un-American diplomacy in Central America.

A treaty was concluded in 1850 between the United States and Great Britain "in relation to a ship canal by way of Central America and for other purposes," but Great Britain has long since forfeited all rights under that treaty and she has no claims under it that the United States is bound to respect, inasmuch as she has violated—most flagrantly—the terms of the convention relative to such a ship canal treaty.

Article 1 of said convention, among other things, says: "The governments of the United States and Great Britain hereby declare that neither the one, nor the other, will ever assume, or obtain, or exercise any dominion, or fortify, or colonize any part of Central America."

Great Britain has assumed, fortified and exercised dominion over a part of Honduras, known as the Balize or British Honduras, and is there today as sovereign. She has therefore violated the treaty and I may add, with premeditation and malice aforethought, in view of any possible clash over the proposed inter-oceanic waterway. Why the United States has permitted Great Britain to remain a sovereign in Central America passes all comprehension. It is possible that by our neglect to make her leave the premises long since, we have lost the right to object to her present occupancy; but it is evident that a halt has to be called and that promptly.

The state department has managed during the last few years to set up as if it were a branch office of the foreign office in Downing street, just as Wall street is to Lombard street, but that kind of thing cannot go on forever. Whether some southern politician, who played in the hands of the British when United States commissioner in Paris a few years ago, is now playing in the hands of Hay in this Nicaragua canal matter is a question that might be looked into, inasmuch as no canal is possible so long as this diplomatic tangle is on; and it is just as plain as A B C that Great Britain wants no canal in America for the reason that it would cripple her Suez canal to a very dangerous extent; especially since the map of the world has been changed in the orient during the last three years.

America is bound to have a canal whether Great Britain wills it or not and the moment is opportune for President Roosevelt to show what stuff he is made of. Has he the nerve, and he is nervy; has he the patriotism to call a halt? I believe the Hay-Pauncefote combination will have to go.

VICTOR VIFQUAIN.

Lincoln, Neb.

The Latest Victim

Two years ago the regents of the University of Nebraska called to the chancellorship of the state university Prof. E. Benj. Andrews, formerly president of Brown university, superintendent of the city schools of Chicago, and one of the prominent educationalists and writers of the United States. From the first inception of his work in this state, Mr. Andrews has been the victim of the republican liars and finally has been compelled to issue a statement specifically denying that in a lecture on veracity at the University of Chicago, he taught under certain circumstances that lying was justifiable, and, second, that in private conversation he had defended anarchy and anarchists. The republican party of Nebraska is guilty of stealing the permanent school funds, and electing the man who got the money as United States senator, of electing a governor who tried to cripple the finances of the state university by vetoing the appropriation of taxes already levied, and of slandering the able and accomplished head of our educational system. Any person in Nebraska claiming to be interested in public education who votes a republican state ticket does not practice what he preaches.—Geneva Gazette.

LAYING PACIFIC CABLE.

Protest Against Granting Rights to Private Corporation.

CONGRESSMAN CORLISS' OPINION.

Member of House Interstate Commerce Committee Asks President to Refuse the Mackay Company Permission to Land a Cable on American Territory—Wants Government to Build and Control the Line.

Representative Corliss of Michigan called at the White House, says the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, for the special purpose of protesting against granting to any private company or corporation the privilege of landing a cable on the western shore of the United States or on the shores of the Hawaiian, Philippine or other island possessions of the United States in the orient. Previously application had been made by parties representing the Postal Telegraph and Commercial Cable companies, at the head of which is John W. Mackay, for permission to land cables, the intention being to construct a cable across the Pacific ocean connecting the United States with its island possessions in the orient. It is claimed that the executive department can legally grant such permission without the intervention of congress, and the president referred the matter to the departments of state and justice for examination as to his authority in the premises. The objection of Mr. Corliss is not personal to the parties making the application, but is general, being based on the ground that the government should construct, exclusively control and operate the cable. Mr. Corliss was a member of the house interstate committee, which reported a bill at the last session of congress for constructing a Pacific cable, and joined in a minority report advocating the construction of the proposed cable by the government.

The attention of the president was called to this report by Mr. Corliss in his interview. He believes that had the matter been taken up by the house the views of the minority would have been adopted and that the substitute bill providing for construction and control by the United States would have received affirmative action. "The right to construct a cable connecting this country with our new possessions," said Mr. Corliss, "is a special privilege belonging to the people and can only be conveyed by an act of congress." He read to the president portions of the minority report against granting any company or private corporation the privilege of constructing a cable between this country and its island possessions and alleged that any company to whom the exclusive privilege should be granted to construct and operate a cable would become a monopoly which would prey alike upon the government and the people who would be compelled to do business with it. Mr. Corliss claimed that Great Britain achieved commercial supremacy by purchasing or constructing ocean cables and canals. He believes the proposed cable can be built for about $8,000,000. General Greely estimated that it could be constructed for $10,000,000, and Rear Admiral Bradford made a similar estimate.

The question of public ownership and control was fully considered by the house committee that had charge of the matter, and comprehensive reports were made in the three last congresses on every feature of it. At the last session public hearings were held by the committee, at which representatives of the army and navy attended and to which they contributed the results of their study of the cost and practicability of construction. These gentlemen generally favored government ownership, but a majority of the committee reported a bill for private ownership, subject to certain conditions favorable to the carrying of government business, control of the cable in time of war and a material reduction of present rates charged both for public and private messages.

Some of the disadvantages of a government cable were pointed out by the committee. It was urged that the original cost would reach $15,000,000, that it would require $1,500,000 annually for maintenance, that the government would not be able to land and operate its own cable in China and Japan and that therefore its income would be limited to traffic to and from the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands, which would not exceed perhaps $150,000 per annum against an annual expenditure of $1,500,000 for maintenance. The majority contended that a private corporation would give the United States all the advantages of a government owned line for official business in time of peace or war at a fixed charge and without risk to the government, the corporation raising the entire cost of construction for a sum not to exceed $300,000 per annum for twenty years and a rate thereafter to be fixed by the postmaster general.

Groom Carried a Shotgun.

While George Lilly was on his way to get married, says a New Orleans dispatch, it began to rain. He rose to put up the top of his buggy and as he did so knocked over his shotgun, which was propped against the seat beside him. The weapon was discharged. Lilly was severaly wounded in the arm and side. Despite his wounds he drove to his bride-to-be's home and had the ceremony performed while in bed. He will recover.

Safety of Ocean Travel.

Modern steamship travel is so safe that the English government has not lost or injured in transit a single man of the 250,000 sent to South Africa.

A Mistaken Idea

The populists have sometimes been called socialists. While some of their theories do tend toward socialism, they are far from socialists. A cardinal principle of populism is that wealth should belong to him who creates it. The socialist would not listen to this at all. He would at once take it away from the creator and bestow it upon the community at large, or—the government.

The populists, however, do believe in the public ownership of public utilities, such as the railroads, the telegraph, the express business, etc. But this can hardly be taken as such a peculiarity as to entitle him to a high place among cranks, seeing that, since he commenced advocating his ideas, many wise and conservative people in all parties have adopted them.

We also have a very good example of the practical application of these ideas in the postoffice. This is a great industry which is absolutely owned and controlled by the government. No one will dispute that it is better so, than it would be if a private corporation controlled it and was permitted to charge "all the traffic will stand."—Hebron Champion.

A word to the fathers—If there were fewer fatted calves there would be fewer prodigal sons.—October Smart Set.

So Delightfully Modern

"Is your new rector an agreeable man?"

"Indeed he is—real nice; plays golf and squash, owns a naphtha launch and automy, and besides, he isn't a bit religious."—October Smart Set.

How Careless

He asked his love to marry him,
by letter she replied;
He read her firm refusal,
Then shot himself and died.
He might have been alive today,
And she his happy bride,
If he had read the postscript
Upon the other side.
—October Smart Set.