

## The Nebraska Independent

Lincoln, Nebraska

PRESSE BLDG., CORNER 13TH AND N STS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

\$1.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

When making remittances do not leave money with news agencies, postmasters, etc. to be forwarded by them. They frequently forget or remit a different amount than was left with them, and the subscriber fails to get proper credit.

Address all communications, and make all drafts, money orders, payable to  
**The Nebraska Independent,**  
Lincoln, Neb.

Anonymous communications will not be received. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned.

The people of Chicago are placing their last hope of relief from the street car extortions and bad service in the populist doctrine of the referendum. It is strange that people always try everything else before they will try populist principles, but they always find them a safe refuge at last.

Rosewater talks about "the polluted atmosphere of the state house." Well, he was very energetic in trying to put out the men who never polluted the air of the state house and put in the present gang of thieves. He feels very badly about it now, but that does not help matters much.

A whole lot of citizens whose names were published in the list asking for Bartley's pardon declare that they never signed the petition and many of them say that they never even saw it. Embezzlement got Bartley in and forgery got him out. Nebraska republican leaders are experts at both.

Bud Lindsay has been taken care of by the joint efforts of Nebraska's heavy twins in the United States senate. He is surveyor of customs and custodian of public buildings at Lincoln. Alva E. Kennard has been made register of the land office. Poor Joe Johnson! What will he do now?

It is now stated that Governor Crane, who could not take the treasury department on account of his government contracts, will be appointed to succeed Long in the navy department. That Long will go, no one doubts, but who will succeed him is not certainly known.

A bill has been presented in congress to give Grover Cleveland \$25,000 a year as long as he lives and all other ex-presidents hereafter. Grover certainly does not need it. He went into the White house a poor man and came out rated at \$3,000,000. If the presidents to come do anywhere near as well as that there will be no necessity to pension them.

When times are really prosperous mechanics and day laborers are able to support their families on something less than the sum total of their wages. All that class in Lincoln declare that on account of the increased cost of living that it takes every cent that they can earn to feed and clothe their families and pay their rent. Are the times really prosperous?

The Independent-Home Makers Co. has several tracts of irrigated land in their Idaho settlement for any who may be looking for a new location. The tracts offered are the tracts allotted to several members who have been unable to make final payment. If you want a piece of this land write today to Independent Home Makers Co., Lincoln, Neb.

Roosevelt's reputation rests upon his renown as a civil service reformer and his condemnation of machine politics. Roosevelt has appointed as a member of his cabinet Mr. Payne, the most notorious corruptor, lobbyist and political manipulator in the whole United States. The Independent reports the facts in the case and its readers can form their own conclusions.

Senator Hoar says that he has heard some terrible stories from private soldiers and officers of high rank concerning the treatment of the Filipinos in the conduct of the war and he wants the senate to appoint a special committee to investigate the matter and let senators know the truth. It started a lively debate in the senate and the matter was laid over for further discussion. There is a prospect of some lively talk on that subject soon.

All the world is beginning to hold the supreme court of the United States in contempt. Some very sarcastic things have been said of late concerning it by the leading men of Europe. Its vacillation and frequent reversals of opinion and its constant practice of rendering decisions in accordance with the administration in power at the time by one majority,

### THEIR PRESTIGE GONE

When the Czar Reed gag rules were proposed in congress the editor of The Independent was there and witnessed most of the fight. He predicted then that the result would be to destroy the house of representatives as a deliberate body and would finally rob it of all influence in public affairs. The work of this congress shows that those forebodings have been fully realized. The way the thing is now, a few leaders of the majority get together and formulate a bill. The rules committee, which is a creature of the speaker, brings in a new rule. That rule specifies that the bill shall be called up at a certain time, debated so long and the vote be taken at a certain hour. The majority vote to adopt the report of the committee and that ends it. Bills changing in a large degree our form of government, declarations of war and matters of the most vital importance to every citizen of the United States are thus summarily disposed of without investigation or debate. It is simply a pro forma matter to pass a bill in the house, no matter of how great importance it may be.

The result of this is that the house is losing all prestige. Formerly great national policies were developed in the house. Great political leaders laid the foundation of their fame there. Since the Reed rules were adopted all that has been changed. There is not a member of the house today who is a national character. There never will be one under this system.

The constitution requires appropriation bills to originate in the house. But to even these very little attention is paid there. They are hustled through and given over to the senate where debate has not yet been suppressed to be reformulated. The Nicaragua canal bill was rushed through under the gag rules without debate and turned over to the senate expecting that body would make an entirely new law of it. The house is becoming under these rules nothing but the obedient servant of a coterie of politicians belonging to the majority. In the near future it will hardly be a factor in our government at all, that is, if this policy is persisted in.

### RAILROAD ACCIDENTS

There has been an extraordinary large number of railroad accidents recently and they continue to be reported almost every day. There have been head-end collisions, rear-end collisions, open switches, wrong signals, misinterpreted orders and other things reported as the cause. After reading all that has been said by the managers and the employes, The Independent has come to the conclusion that it is the result of nervous strain put upon employes by long hours and in other cases by the tremendous velocity of the fast trains. Four hours' management of an engine attached to one of the modern lightning express trains will produce more nervous exhaustion in an engineer that eight hours on a slow train. Under this tremendous strain the mind sometimes fails to work and then there is an accident. Railroad managers would do well to take into consideration some of the fundamental laws of nature. Dynamic laws must be observed. An engineer cannot run eighty miles in an hour upon the same nervous energy that he can run forty miles. To expect him to do it is to expect that the laws of nature can be reversed upon the orders of a railroad manager. The orders of railroad managers are always obeyed by the republican party and probably that has led them to believe that they were powerful enough to reverse the laws of nature.

There has always been a sort of news censorship at Washington. In some respects it has been a good thing and in other ways it has not. Newspaper men never report the scandals in official life. It is well that some of them should be suppressed, but it would be better if others were printed, because it would have a tendency to work a reform. The public White house receptions are always attended with some disgraceful episodes of which no mention is made. They are so disgraceful that publicity in regard to them would undoubtedly work a great change, or in their entire suppression. At the New Year's reception, when nearly all had gone, Mrs. Roosevelt presented to a lady the bouquet of orchids, which she, Mrs. Roosevelt, had been carrying. The lady broke off a few to give to her friends who were standing near and then other women rushed up and began to snatch the remainder. A small riot ensued, many fine dresses were torn and the police had to interfere. The public, hank-shaking receptions should be abolished.

### SIGNS OF CHEER

There is one cheering sign that it would be well for workers in reform to notice for in it there is much hope for the future. The average citizen comes more and more to realize the frivolity and falsity of the principles so long held that the natural harmony of interests will induce society as a whole

pressed, since the very fact of his being oppressed proves his unfitness for any higher condition and that the difference in station between rulers and ruled corresponds to the amount of energy that each person has within him. It is beginning to be conceived more clearly that the chances of birth and environment, the very great advantages possessed by capitalists over the man who has only his hands, makes the assertion concerning justice a parody and a sarcasm.

The great questions that press for solution are essentially moral questions and the statesman who expects to solve them by cold deductions from political economy will fail and fail absolutely. The sermon that is printed this week in The Independent enunciates some very fundamental principles, both in political economy and sociology. There is something in this world of more importance than wealth-making and it must be taken into consideration. Even wealth-making itself depends upon that thing.

### THE CHICAGO INTER-OCEAN

The Inter-Ocean of Chicago has been a radical republican paper and one that the mullet heads have sworn by for several years. It was the private property of Charles T. Yerkes, who bought it for the purpose of having an organ to defend his steals and rob the people of Illinois. He, with its influence, was able, not only to control the Chicago city council, but the legislature of the state as well. The courts got after him and he sold out and has gone to London to manipulate underground railways there. Last week he sold the paper to George W. Hindman. That is a sample of the papers and the reading matter that the rank and file of the republican party get served out to them. Is it any wonder that a majority of them are enveloped in clouds of ignorance and prejudice?

These papers are the favorites of the great advertisers, many of whom absolutely refuse to put an advertisement in a paper like The Independent. Among these robbers there is "a community of interest," and they all stand by each other. A fearless and independent paper must rely upon its subscription list for its income and white paper has more than doubled in price since the paper trust was formed, very largely increasing the cost of publication. Many of the great dailies are part owners of the paper trust and from the profits that they get from the weeklies which are forced to buy paper from them, their expenses are greatly reduced. Any paper fighting the trusts and imperialism has enormous odds to overcome when it comes in competition with the class of journals to which the Inter-Ocean belongs. Many republicans will continue to read and believe what that paper says and all the time claim that they are true followers of Abraham Lincoln. They will continue to call all well-posted men lunatics, socialists and little Americans and fatten themselves on the idea that they are the only true patriots. They don't know any better.

### A CORPORATION

If the ordinary citizen would stop long enough in his eternal hunt for money to learn the real meaning of a few English words, he would be able to render better service to himself, his family, and his city. A city is a corporation. Now what is a corporation? It is a body of persons authorized to "transact business" in the same way that an individual can do it. It is a number of individuals formed into one body by law to act as one person. In all corporations the members thereof have the right to vote. In those formed for private gain the members cast votes according to the proportion of money that they have contributed. The members of the city corporation each have one vote regardless of the amount of money that they may have at stake. With this exception they are alike. Now in a private corporation, those who are elected directors thereof, conduct "the business" according to the wishes of the majority of the stockholders and for their benefit. The stockholder in a city corporation never stops to think whether the "business" which the corporation was created for is transacted or not, but whether members of his political party are elected as officers thereof. If the directors of a private corporation should give away property of value of millions, the stockholders would soon be heard from and the thieves who did it would be landed in the penitentiary. But the officers of city corporations have frequently given away millions of property belonging to the people of the city and the stockholder submits. If he fully realized the meaning of the word "corporation" would he act in that way?

A cable dispatch from Cape Town of January 8 says that a British column captured a Dutch laager with a great number of cattle which was entirely defended by women. One hundred and fifty women were acting as cowboys. When those red-coats marched back with their women prisoners of war, they must have felt

### THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF

When the Australians determine to change their tariff rates, they do not give the importers a chance to lay in a stock sufficient to last them a year or two before the tariff goes into effect. That is a ruse-off enjoyed by the American tariff grafters alone. When it was contemplated to put a tariff on sugar, the sugar trust imported all the sugar in the world that it could get hold of before the tariff took effect, so that for a year there was no sugar of any moment imported and the trust raised the price to the tariff point and got all the money while the government got no revenue at all. The same trick was played with wool and the tariff grafters made millions of cold cash by these transactions while the people paid the bill.

The importers don't work that kind of a graft on the Australians. The Independent has received a copy of the Australian tariff that went into effect on October 8, 1901. The way they manage it is this: The ministers introduce a tariff bill into the Australian parliament and from the moment it is made public it takes effect. If the parliament diminishes any of the duties the importers have that amount refunded to them. If the duties are increased, the government collects the additional amounts after the act is passed.

A glance at this tariff shows that it is a very moderate one, the free list being very long and none of the ad valorem duties exceed 25 per cent—most of them are 15 per cent. The heavy duties come upon the luxuries and fine apparel. The Independent recommends that the tariff lunatics in this country put in some time studying this document. The mountainous duties imposed by the Dingley bill makes this tariff look very much like a tariff for revenue only, and passed in the interest of the people instead of being enacted for the benefit of the tariff grafters.

### A HOT ROAST

Editor Independent: Yours of the 28th received. Will say in reply that I feel glad that you cannot reply with your request of sending in the \$1 for your paper.

I was born on the cabbage side of the Rhine, came to the land of freedom when fourteen years of age, never had but three weeks of English tuition, but I would rather pay the dollar to keep slush out of my house.

I have shown the paper to a number of my neighbors, both democrats and republicans. One and all, with myself, believe that for the workings of "imperialism," "imperialism," are almost twin brothers to "anarchism." We think the teaching of it leading in that direction, and I am for America first, last and all the time—do not want to be guilty of bringing slush into the family for the children to read.

I am a farmer, having a library costing me about \$1,200, a reader of daily and weekly papers, can talk some English, but have no use for the workings of "imperialism," "imperialism," are almost twin brothers to "anarchism." We think the teaching of it leading in that direction, and I am for America first, last and all the time—do not want to be guilty of bringing slush into the family for the children to read.

I am a farmer, having a library costing me about \$1,200, a reader of daily and weekly papers, can talk some English, but have no use for the workings of "imperialism," "imperialism," are almost twin brothers to "anarchism." We think the teaching of it leading in that direction, and I am for America first, last and all the time—do not want to be guilty of bringing slush into the family for the children to read.

I am a farmer, having a library costing me about \$1,200, a reader of daily and weekly papers, can talk some English, but have no use for the workings of "imperialism," "imperialism," are almost twin brothers to "anarchism." We think the teaching of it leading in that direction, and I am for America first, last and all the time—do not want to be guilty of bringing slush into the family for the children to read.

I am a farmer, having a library costing me about \$1,200, a reader of daily and weekly papers, can talk some English, but have no use for the workings of "imperialism," "imperialism," are almost twin brothers to "anarchism." We think the teaching of it leading in that direction, and I am for America first, last and all the time—do not want to be guilty of bringing slush into the family for the children to read.

should think that the name would be spelled "Schif" instead of "Shif," not to mention the latter part of it—he has been woefully imposed upon. Among all the papers that he takes, he should have been able to have found out the meaning of the word imperialism. Those republicans and democrats he consulted must have been poking fun at him and his neighbors knowing that he was a "green Dutchman," took advantage of that fact to have a little amusement at his expense. Most Americans outside of Indiana know the meaning of "imperialism." They could have easily informed him. If he consulted any intelligent German he would have found out "pretty quick" what it was. Most of them have a very definite idea about the sort that they had at home and as well as this new brand which the republican party has forced upon this country. But Mr. Shifaly's unfortunate environment may have deprived him of any accurate knowledge of either language. In which case he is to be pitied and not abused. There are unfortunately a good many thousands men, American born, who are readers of daily and weekly papers and do not know the meaning of the word imperialism. The editors of those papers have never informed them. They tell them that to oppose imperialism is to advocate anarchy and the poor creatures, just like this "green Dutchman," believe it.

The Independent prints about one in every hundred of the letters it receives indorsing the paper and complimenting its editor, and every one that criticizes and roasts it. Mr. Shifaly's comes under the latter head, so it goes in.

### A SLY STEAL

Mr. E. P. Bacon calls attention in the North American Review to the way the railroads have of raising freight rates without changing their published rate sheets or the public knowing anything about it. That is an old story to the readers of The Independent, but it is probably the first time that the readers of republican papers ever heard of it. Mr. Bacon calls attention to the fact that in January, 1900, 592 articles were raised in classification east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio, and hence have had to pay higher rates—paid primarily by the shipper, but ultimately by the consumer.

One of these articles is sugar, when it was shifted in 1900 from the sixth to the fifth class. The cost of transportation was increased a dollar a ton. As the annual tonnage of sugar transported during recent years exceeds 2,000,000 tons it follows that this single change in classification cost the sugar consumers of the United States \$2,000,000.

The federal courts have in some instances given protection to this sort of swindling and probably will continue to do so in the future. It was for that reason as well as for some others that the corporations secured their nominations and confirmation.

### BETTER STAND BY IT

Placing restrictions upon the suffrage is a dangerous thing, for no one can tell at what moment there may arise conditions which will make these restrictions apply so universally that the major part of the population will be disfranchised and the whole government turned over to the plutocratic few. In Montreal there is a normal voting strength of about 38,000, but it is said that in the coming election for mayor 21,330 of these men will be unable to vote on account of the non-payment of taxes, for there has been hard times up there. It will be a very easy thing for those who own the wealth and the bankers who control the finances of that city after they have thus gained power to permanently disfranchise the whole mass of the common people and run things to suit themselves ever after, or until the oppressed inaugurate a revolution and forcibly overthrow the government. We had better all stick to the declaration of Lincoln that no man is good enough to govern another man without that man's consent. The thought of the best and wisest men of eighteen centuries was condensed into that Declaration of Independence which the republicans have discarded. We had all better stand by it.

Tammany has a new leader and he seems to be a different sort of man from any one who was ever at the head of the organization before. He was a naval officer for some years, having graduated from Annapolis in the regular course. His skill in naval construction caused the heads of great shipyards to offer him a much higher salary than he could get in the navy, and he resigned. He is spoken of as a man of the very highest character.

The constant and never ending lying of the republican press would do much more damage than it does if were not that most of it is so ridiculous that no man of sense will pay any attention to it. During the campaign they said that Bryan was trying to get a situation with some theatrical troupe, and

### BADLY MUDDLED

A Chicago daily that told us every day a few years ago that the cause of low prices was overproduction, and that the only hope of higher prices must come from reduced production, now, since production has enormously increased and prices have continued to rise, explains matters by saying that the increase in cost of living is because "production does not keep up with the demand." Sometimes it seems to The Independent that the economists who write the editorials in the republican dailies must all be distinguished graduates of insane asylums. It is a characteristic of lunatics to think that every one but themselves is crazy. These editors never failed to call every man who said that overproduction would not produce starvation and want, lunatics. If any man should try to keep himself in touch with the economic vagaries of the distinguished men who edit the republican and gold-bug democratic dailies, he would have to stand on his head half of the time. The cause of low prices was a decrease in the volume of money in circulation, both credit and standard money, and the cause of the increase in prices was the enormous additions that have been made to the volume of money by the coinage of both gold and silver, the inflation of the paper money by the banks and the increase in credits. A man don't have to stand on his head to be able to see that.

### A STEADY ADVANCE

Three distinguished lawyers of the United States senate have come to the conclusion that the house of representatives is only a fifth wheel to a wagon and about as cumbersome a piece of government machinery as was ever invented. They say that the senate and the president can make any sort of commercial treaties that they see fit without any interference by the house. They can make high tariffs and low tariffs and collect revenues from them, without the bills originating in the house as the constitution declares. Perhaps they are right. Since the house adopted the gag rules and joined with the senate in making old wadding out of the Declaration of Independence and the constitution, there does not seem much use for it. Step by step imperialism advances ever since it obtained its first foothold. This country has started on the road that lead to the destruction of all the great republics of history. As long as the republican party is in power there will never be a halt called.

### AN EDITORIAL DIFFICULTY

A gentleman in Boston writes a personal letter to the editor of The Independent in which he suggests that this paper is primarily a national organ—a weekly magazine—for the review and discussion of matters of interest to the whole people. He says that he knows nothing about Bartley and a good many other things that take up considerable space in the paper which are of interest only to the people of Nebraska. It seems to The Independent that even a reformer in Boston would be interested in the way that the republican party governs in this state as the party is practically the same everywhere. He certainly is interested in the sort of men that Nebraska sends to the United States senate, for they legislate for him as well as for us. It would undoubtedly be of interest to him to have the republican party overthrow in this state and that cannot be done unless the people are kept informed of the sort of government that party is giving the state. The Independent recognized the difficulty of conducting a paper that is at once a national and a state organ of a party. The editor tries to the best of his ability to print only such matter about state affairs as will be of interest to its thousands of readers in other states and at the same time fight for reform locally in this state. It is a difficult thing to do, but he will do the best he can.

A petition with tens of thousands of names attached will soon be presented to President Roosevelt asking him to enforce the treaty of 1871 with Great Britain, the 6th article of which prohibits each country from allowing its ports to become a base of supplies in case of war. England pointed to that treaty and ordered Dewey to leave the English port of Hong Kong forthwith, but she has been making the ports of this country a base for accumulating and shipping war supplies to be used against the South African republics for three years without any protest from this government. It is doubtful if England could have successfully carried on the war against the Boers without these supplies. The few Boers on the African veldts have in fact had to fight the two greatest nations on earth.

Dr. R. S. Anthony, who some years ago married a daughter of the Boer general, Wessels, and who has never given up his American citizenship, has been on trial at Cape Town under charges of high treason to the British

ly starved. The doctor fed and clothed him. For that he was charged with treason and hauled before the military court. When it came to the test, the British government hardly dared to shoot him and he was finally set at liberty with the request to get out of the country in a hurry.

Joe Chamberlain is constantly talking of the assistance that Great Britain is going to receive "from our kindred beyond the sea." If he means by that residents of British colonies there may be a little in it, but if he means the people of the United States he is woefully mistaken. The New York snobs may worship at the feet of the British aristocracy, but when it comes to fighting for them, Joe will have to rely upon Tommy Atkins.

The agreement among the railroads to abolish the pass system turned out as The Independent said it would. Some of the roads withstood the pressure for eight days, but most of them surrendered within five days. Nothing but an enforceable law making the issue of passes a criminal offense punishable with a heavy penalty will ever stop it.

A few bankers in New York are making preparations for the wrath to come. Others seem to think that inflation can go on forever. Two or three of the banks have refused to accept deposits from Wall street brokers dealing in industrial trust stocks. The uninitiated should remember that bank deposits are largely made up of promises to pay.

There are some things about Spear's appeal to the governor that is hard for a populist to understand. The governor is chairman of the board under whose authority Stuefer has transacted all his bond business. Why ask the governor to proceed against an official who was simply executing the gubernatorial orders? Stuefer had to obey the orders of that board. There is more than "one bad apple in the barrel."

The catalogue of the charity societies of New York have been published. Altogether there are 3,449 different organizations dispensing charities in the great city. Think of that! Is it possible that there is anything wrong in a society that makes such an enormous amount of charity work necessary? In some circles if one intimates that there is something wrong, he is classed with the anarchists or discredited.

The judges of the federal courts are keeping up the reputation which they have established as special protectors of the railroads. The other day they awarded 3,000,000 acres of land, valued at \$15,000,000, to the Southern Pacific. That road was given land and bonds enough to build it twice before this additional amount was awarded to it. The having a friend that is a court is worth much more in clean hard cash than any other thing in all the earth—to a railroad.

Two men got into a row during the last campaign. There was a good deal of talk and then they went to fighting. One of them had the other down, a crowd was standing around and some of them began to cry out: "Stop that fight." The fellow on the underside all at once called out: "You are right, boys. This fight ought to be stopped." As all this occurred before the recent announcement from the White house, it should not be applied to the Sampson-Schley contest.

The national bankers want more bonds and as the only way that they can see to get them is to make silver dollars redeemable in gold, they are going to push the Overstreet bill. They think that by so doing they can create an endless chain with which to draw gold out of the treasury that will beat the old one two to one. In that game lies the possibility of \$500,000,000 more bonds and that makes the national banker laugh until he has to hold his sides when he thinks of it.

The Emperor of Corea has a different way of treating embezzlers from the Governor of Nebraska. An overhauling of the books revealed the fact that a large sum of money had been embezzled by public officials and he issued an order that every one of them proven guilty of stealing more than 2,000 yen (\$1,000) should be executed. The Nebraska embezzler who stole the equivalent of 1,600,000 yen was freely pardoned and Tim Sedgewick says that the Nebraska embezzler was only a philanthropist in disguise.

There is one thing that corporation journals carefully keep from the knowledge of the farmers who vote the republican ticket. High rates of freight take the value out of land as certainly as an arid climate. When the corporations gather in all the profits of farming through their rates, land values disappear. With low rates, land values rise. Farmers who vote for the corporation party, vote to take