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INDEPENDENT EDITORIAL FORCE

Thanks to our many friends and the unselfish patriotism of our readers. The "Liberty Building Postals" at the rate they are going will soon provide a fund to purchase and construct a plain, unvarnished home for The Independent.

In response to the efforts of the friends and patrons of the paper every effort will be made to give as well as to receive. The Independent will be improved and strengthened by adding to the editorial staff. All the work on the paper, as incredible as the statement may seem, has been done by Mr. T. H. Tibbles. He has labored long into the night searching scientific and literary magazines and quarters as well as the dailies, collecting and condensing the news of the world for the benefit of The Independent's readers. Under his editorship, The Independent has had its great growth. He has fought fearlessly and faithfully as all who have read the paper will testify. He has now passed his sixty-second birthday and is stronger in the faith and battles harder than ever before. But from now on he will have an assistant. Mr. Chas. Q. De France, chairman of the state committee of the people's party, has accepted a place on The Independent. Mr. De France has long been recognized as one of the ablest and most forceful writers in the state. This addition is made for the benefit of the readers of the paper and to enable the management to give to them a better paper—a paper prepared with the greatest care in all its departments. If The Independent has been a power for good in the past, it will now be made a greater power in the future.

Everything that can be done to show a full appreciation of the generous support the readers of The Independent are giving it, will be done by giving them everything in return that is possible.

From time to time during the last few years The Independent has announced improved facilities for publishing the paper. The returns of increased patronage have been devoted to making the paper better. It has a Mergenthaler linotype machine for setting the type. It has a full line of job and advertising type—everything necessary for the economical publication of a weekly paper defending the interests of the plain people except a home. Thanks to our many friends and the unselfish patriotism of our readers, the "Liberty Building Postals" will soon erect a fortress here from which The Independent cannot be driven by the order of any plutocratic land owner.

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT.

The decent men of England are expressing their horror and indignation over the murder by order of a court-martial of the Boer Commandants Scheepers and Lotter in scathing words of rebuke and shame. James Bryce reminds his fellow countrymen that "slaughter in the field is forgiven, but the scaffold is neither forgotten nor forgiven. Its memory rankles for generations to come." Truer words never were spoken. The memory of Robert Emmet and Nathan Hale are held sacred in millions of homes because they were hung by British military authorities and they ever will be. When the Boers who met death on Spion Kop and hundreds of other battle fields are all forgotten, the names of Scheepers and Lotter will be household words among all the nations of the earth where there are men who love liberty.

The liars hired by the Associated press to send dispatches from Washington as well as the special correspondents of the dailies certainly try to earn their salaries. General Miles publishes a letter in which he declares that the stories sent out to the effect that he was a candidate for the presidency and as actively working to that end are all absolute falsehoods. The Independent paid no attention to them when the stories appeared. Long practice has enabled the editor to spot these lies at first sight and he does not lumber up the columns of The Independent with them. This item is written because he got a letter asking why he did not announce the fact that Gen-

TWO MONUMENTAL SCOUNDRELS

It is a well-known fact, one that is not denied by the imperialists themselves, that one reason of the many insurrections in the Philippines has been the monopoly of the land by the friars and the oppression of the tenants. No one claims that the friars have a title that would be recognized either in law or equity. Now comes Senator Lodge and introduces a bill which in the first place forces the Filipinos to pay the friars for the land and in the second place provides for the issue of about \$400,000,000 of United States bonds which are to be turned over to the bankers. The bill provides that the bonds shall bear 4 per cent interest and shall be used for banking purposes. That is to say the bankers can take their money to the treasury, get a bond bearing 4 per cent interest and then have every cent that they have paid for them back in national bank notes that are a partial legal tender. Since the days that public robberies began, there has been no scheme so absolutely disreputable as this introduced into either branch of congress, and by this act Senator Lodge ranks himself down along with Matt Quay in attempting to engineer a scheme that is fouler than the Philadelphia business by ten to one.

Bonds that can be used for banking are now bought and sold every day at a rate of less than 2 per cent interest and the suggestion that these new bonds should bear 4 per cent interest is a fraud on the very face of the transaction. The Independent has never indulged in any harsh criticism of Senator Lodge, but this transaction places him alongside of the most disreputable scoundrels who ever held a seat in the United States senate.

The bill will likely pass. Any man with the temerity to criticize it is a traitor and a little American. Lodge and Quay will rank in history as the two monumental scoundrels that imperialism produced.

BUSINESS AND BUSINESS

"There are corporations and corporations, but there are no trusts and trusts. . . . A business which cannot stand competitive markets has no right to live."—"Flashes" in Massena (N. Y.) Forum.

"Flashes" seemingly overlooks the fact that "some" lines of industry are monopolistic in their very nature; that in such lines competition is not even desirable. Take the telephone for example. One telephone system in an ordinary city or town is all that is needed. Two such systems in one city or town do not give as good service as one system; the reason is obvious and need not be discussed. The competition resulting lasts for a very short time; then one of two things happens: Either the two companies agree upon a living schedule of prices and competition thus ceases, or one kills off and absorbs the other. The business has a right to live, notwithstanding it is essentially monopolistic and cannot brook competition—but the question of who is to own and operate it is the vital one. Being by nature a monopoly, the telephone business should be owned and operated by the public for the public good. The same may be said of electric light plants, water works, street cars, and railroads. Public ownership and operation of those lines which in the very nature of things will not permit continued competition, and private ownership and operation of those in which competition may be freely exercised. That is the populist program.

SOMETHING HIT HIM

The republican editors of this state do not dwell together in sweet harmony. Out in York they have two of them. Tim Sedgwick edits one and Mr. Dayton the other. When Savage pardoned Bartley, Tim thought that it was the most heavenly and lovable act that any executive invested with the pardoning power ever performed. The other editor sings another tune. Listen to him:

The Bartley gang is rallying around Governor Savage. It is stated that "now he has the support of Bartley and his friends, he will be a strong candidate for governor." Good Lord! has it come to that? That the convicted thief and the men who excuse him for the theft are looked upon as probable dictators in the next republican convention? It is not true that the republicans of Nebraska will lie down before the gang that has debauched the state and disgraced the republican party. True, Mr. D. E. Thompson is dictator in federal affairs and will be so long as the present senatorial condition exists. To him we return thanks for Ed Gillespie, and Elmer Stephenson, and Bob Dorgan, and Bud Lindsay, and Ed Sizer. But should the same influence be found in control of the republican state convention, then the plain God's truth is that the republicans of the state will deserve to be beaten by forty thousand votes for allowing it.

The truth about the situation is this: The "Bartley gang" has just as firm a hold and is just as complete control of the republican party in Nebraska as the national bankers and trusts are in that of the national organization. Nothing will ever shake them loose from that hold as long as

to get rid of the "Bartley gang," Wall street and the trusts is to beat the republican party in both state and nation by overwhelming majorities and if Editor Dayton really wants to get rid of them he will turn in and help to do it.

AMERICAN HONOR

Secretary Hay is such a thorough Tory and worshipper of all things English that in his invitations to his daughter's wedding he spells the word "honor" after the English fashion. No other American has spelled the word "honour" for a generation, while the English always spell it that way. This sort of sycophancy reminds the editor of an occurrence that happened while he was in England some years ago. He received an invitation to a "smoking concert" which the then Prince of Wales was expected to attend. It was at a time when heavy watch chains were in fashion. Of the two or three hundred gentlemen present, every one wore a more or less elaborate watch chain. But when the Prince of Wales entered he had no watch chain. Within two minutes there was not one to be seen in the whole audience. Every man present had unfastened and hidden his. A few days afterward if a man were seen on the street with a watch chain, every street Arab or hoodlum he met would ask him what time it was. Watch chains had to be abandoned. Hay wants to introduce such sycophancy into this country.

THE TRUE JEFFERSON

The Independent has often wondered why so seldom there is any mention made of the "blue laws" of Virginia which took all the genius of a Jefferson to overthrow, while we are never allowed to forget for any length of time the "blue laws" of the New England states. Those that were enforced in Connecticut and Massachusetts were mild when compared to what was, not theoretically, but actually imposed on the settlers in the Old Dominion. There Baptists, Quakers, Methodists and Presbyterians were forbidden to teach or hold meetings either in private or public. Lack of respect to a clergyman was punished by a public whipping as was the lack of attendance on Sunday services to receive instruction in the catechism. It took Jefferson nearly a dozen of years of hard work to get embodied in the new Virginia constitution the principle that "all men shall be free by argument to maintain their opinions in religious matters." In writing of this and other work done by Jefferson, Mr. William Elroy Curtis, in his new volume on the "True Jefferson," says:

Thomas Jefferson was the great experimenter of the creative epoch of our national life, and it is an evidence of his genius that the experiments of this pioneer, who in his own time was counted so rash and radical, have achieved so great results and have been accompanied by so little injury.

A WORLD OF LUNATICS

The latest statistics show a frightful increase in insanity. The situation is grave beyond the comprehension of the average citizen. If it goes on at this rate the next generation will be nearly half lunatics. When one thinks of the fandango of horrors that is served to every family that takes a daily newspaper, there is no wonder that the children land in insane asylums by the hundred thousands. In those papers they read ghastly descriptions of the mangled victims of railroad wrecks, mine explosions, electrocutions, tunnels blown up, of desperate combats with criminals, salacious write-ups of the tenderloin district, the scandals related in the courts and thousands of other things of the same sort. The wonder is that they do not all finally find homes in the institutions for lunatics. The grandfathers of these children were healthy, energetic, sane human beings. They were brought up in quiet contact with nature. Birds, beasts, flowers and trees were their companions. They never engaged in anything more exciting than a sleigh-ride or a coon hunt. Now the grandchildren of these sturdy men sit in steam-heated rooms and feast their minds on the details of a thousand horrors that are brought to them every morning in the daily newspapers. Is it any wonder that they go crazy? The great daily newspapers as now conducted are a curse and a greater curse than even those men think they are who are willing to confess to the evil results that flow from debased literature. The yellow-backed dime novels were safe reading for the young in comparison with modern metropolitan dailies. To read them is not only time wasted, but it is time employed in debasing the morals and destroying the intellect. What sort of a world will this be anyhow when the majority of the inhabitants become lunatics through reading plutocratic papers and the excessive use of alcohol?

The republicans of the state now generally admit that "Bartley is a pretty tight clinch" on them. They have to do what he says or he will tell

HARDY'S COLUMN

The Independent again desires to emphasize the fact that it is not responsible for the views expressed in departmental features or in signed communications. While as a rule the ideas put forward by correspondents doubtless meet with editorial approval, yet our readers should understand that the position of The Independent on any given question will be found on the editorial pages. It is not necessary to make this statement to our old subscribers, but it is done for the benefit of the thousand of new readers who have recently subscribed for The Independent, and for the purpose of setting aright any readers who may have been misled by a certain paragraph in last week's paper under the heading, "Hardy's Column."

Old subscribers to The Independent have for years read with interest the many bright paragraphs of Mr. Hardy published in his column. On the whole The Independent has heartily approved his writing; but occasionally his position is opposed to the views of The Independent, and on such occasions, in order that there may be no misapprehensions, it seems necessary that The Independent call attention to the fact that it is not editorially responsible for the utterances of correspondents, and is sometimes obliged to oppose such utterances editorially. The item which calls up this question appeared in last week's Independent, on page 6, being a part of "Hardy's Column," and relating to the indictment of ex-State Treasurer Meserve. The language used in that item is so at variance with the good sense and fairness usually exhibited by Mr. Hardy in his writings, that The Independent feels called upon to comment on it. Mr. Hardy seemingly fails to distinguish between just criticism and virulent attack. And his reckless assertions, made without qualification as statements of fact, if not really actionable, come dangerously near being libellous. The Independent has no hesitancy about criticizing the acts of any public official, whether fusionist or republican, but believes in the good old saying, "Give the devil his due." Doubtless the searcher for things to complain about can always find something in the acts of every public official to attack; but an administration, after all, is to be viewed as a whole and in the light of results. There never has been and never will be a perfect state officer or a state administration without a flaw, because there are neither perfect men nor perfect laws—and doubtless never will be. The Independent has always held that it is possible to give a better administration of state affairs than was given by the fusion state officers; that there was room for improvement; but that in the very nature of things it would be difficult to find a set of state officers who would perform their duties any better than did the fusion state officers from the days of Governor Holcomb's first term to the 7th of January, 1901. Even were every officer a Mr. Hardy, it is extremely doubtful if any better state government would result.

Reposing confidence in Mr. Hardy's usual good sense, the editor, being at all times overwhelmed with work, has given Mr. Hardy a free hand and his "column" is rarely seen by the editor until after it appears in print. But the item in question is so replete with innuendo and misstatements that The Independent feels called upon to take issue with Mr. Hardy's very first statement is incorrect: the indictment charges Mr. Meserve with receiving some \$3,000, and not "ten or fifteen thousand dollars," as Mr. Hardy puts it—an immaterial exaggeration, perhaps, but nevertheless a misstatement. Doubtless Mr. Hardy is "glad a muss has been kicked up on that question." A good many people will welcome some legislative enactment or constitutional provision which will make the state treasurer's duty plain and without question. But few people, except an occasional republican and Mr. Hardy, will feel delighted that the good name of a man like Mr. Meserve be smirched in order that attention be called to our inadequate laws respecting the care of state funds and the investment of the trust funds.

His statement that "the state treasurer's office has been a perpetual home for thieves for thirty years" is rather too sweeping to be taken seriously. And his statement that "all the state officers have always stood up and defended everything done by all the other state officers" is not true. During the fusion administration there were a number of matters upon which the state officers did not agree, and these disagreements were freely aired in the public prints at the time. Naturally all these officers united in defending the administration as a whole—and they had good reason to, because it was by long odds the best ever given in Nebraska.

A good deal might be said for and against the "one honest deputy" to which Mr. Hardy refers, who was so ignominiously kicked out as soon as he began "to criticize the dishonesty of the state house." Honest men, as a rule, when they discover they are in a nest of thieves, resign and make

tion of a boot toe. Mr. Hardy is entitled to his opinion, but if the person in question is his ideal of an honest man, it need never be difficult to keep the state house overflowing with honest men.

"It has always looked as though the treasurer," says Mr. Hardy, "did not want to invest the school money according to law, but loaned it out and put the interest in his pocket." Can Mr. Hardy point to a single instance where the fusion board of educational lands and funds failed or refused to take any available constitutional investment for the trust funds? Did he ever offer to sell a general fund warrant and have the treasurer refuse to buy it? Does he know of any issue of county bonds that the board, represented by the treasurer, was not after promptly and vigorously? Only one other avenue was open to the board, namely, United States bonds, and these sell at such a high premium and bring such a low rate of interest that no board in recent years has considered them available. The premium is so high usually that it would eat up all the interest for from four to eight years after their purchase. United States bonds are valuable to bankers at their market price because they carry with them special privileges of issuing the face of the bond in bank notes which can be taken advantage of by the bankers, but these privileges would avail the state nothing.

Mr. Hardy's criticism in the past has been that the state should have but one fund—but one pocket—and pay everything out of that, and he seemingly at times confuses his ideas of what ought to be with what really is. In the past he has urged that the treasurer call registered general fund warrants and pay them off with the trust funds and cancel the warrants. This would not be investing "the school money according to law," but on the contrary would be a direct violation of the law. It is rather inconsistent in one breath to urge a public officer to violate the law, and in the next to call him a thief because he refuses to do it.

The charge that "the balance of the state board seemed to sanction the course and UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVED A PART OF THE INTEREST MONEY" is too serious to pass unchallenged. Does Mr. Hardy mean to state as a fact that Governor Holcomb, Governor Poynter, Porter, Wolfe and Smyth received interest money from Mr. Meserve for seeming to "sanction the course?" Before the law was made requiring the treasurer to put the state money into banks with bonded security the treasurer never had any money in the fund on which any warrant was presented. There was always someone there to cash the warrant at a discount—then after dark the money would come out of the treasury. The fusionists had an opportunity to correct those wrongs, but they did not do it. They run things too much the same old way.

Mr. Hardy's ignorance of the facts, as displayed in the paragraph quoted above, is truly lamentable. Doesn't he know that warrants jumped from a discount to par and then to a premium almost immediately after the fusion state officers assumed control? Doesn't he know that this was accomplished only because the fusion board of educational lands and funds at its very first sitting passed a resolution authorizing and directing the treasurer to buy general fund state warrants as an investment for the permanent school fund? Doesn't he know that the present republican board is compelled by public sentiment to do the same thing, and that a terrific clamor would go up all over the state if the republican board dared to go back to the old practice of not buying such warrants as an investment? Doesn't he know that general fund warrants would go below par today if the state should cease to be a purchaser of them? If he doesn't know these things, he ought to study them and learn before he ventures to write authoritatively upon questions of which he knows so little.

The Independent has no desire to defend the fusion state officers against Mr. Hardy's charge that "railroad passes were just as flush as ever," but it objects to the sweeping charge that "they would ride on a pass and then charge the state 3 cents a mile for doing it, under the head of expenses." Mr. Hardy should be more specific. He should name the officer who did this. The Independent stands ready to print the names, if Mr. Hardy will furnish the evidence, but objects to his wholesale manner of blackening the character of men who are not guilty of such practices. "They" is inclusive; it takes in all of the fusion state officers.

Good will doubtless result from the political persecution of Mr. Meserve. Attention will be called directly to the crying need of a constitutional convention to remedy a number of matters which cannot be delayed much longer, and legislation will doubtless be enacted which will make the treasurer's duties less difficult of performance. As the matter now stands he is charged with the safe keeping of the uninvested trust funds without any legislative directions as to how he may legally care for them. He cannot legally deposit them in a depository bank under the

MOTHER OF TRUSTS

The most potent argument against the protective system is that it is the mother of monopoly. A protective tariff is utterly useless when it comes to raising prices if competition is free. One might put a tariff of a hundred per cent for instance on hats, but if competition in the hat producing industry was unfettered it would prevent the price of hats from becoming exorbitant for others would invest their money in hat manufacturing if by so doing they could obtain exorbitant returns on the capital invested. The main argument made by protectionists in the beginning of this high tariff policy was that it would not result in the raising of prices. The usual reply was that if the manufacturers did not expect to get higher prices for their products they would not spend the time and money that they were spending to get a tariff, but the real reply was that a high tariff would undoubtedly end in combinations and monopolies. Having prevented competition from abroad by a tariff wall too high to scale, the protected interests would undoubtedly combine in such a way as to prevent it at home. Any man who would stop and think for a moment would see that a tariff would be of no benefit to manufacturers unless it did raise prices and the plausible claim of the republican spell-binders and editorial writers that it would not, needed some elucidation. The argument that competition would regulate prices under a high tariff was sound, if there were no monopolies created. The tariff beneficiaries knew very well that if they could eliminate foreign competition that it would be an easy thing to destroy it at home. On this theory they worked. The result has been just what they desired. Competition was destroyed in one industry after another until the mighty trusts began controlling all industries. The mother of all this was the protective tariff. There is where the destruction of competition, the organization of monopolies and the great concentration of wealth which now threatens our form of government and even civilization itself, had its beginning. The protective theory is the mother of all of it, but it has now grown to be bigger than its mother. The little infant has become a savage giant that fears neither God nor man. It dominates congresses, cabinets, legislatures, controls the courts and openly defies constitutions and laws.

MULLET HEAD STUPIDITY

There is something about a partisan follower of the republican leaders that is unique—there cannot be found another thing of the same kind in all of God's universe. The editor of The Independent was walking along the street when he was accosted by a republican—a business man of some prominence. That gentleman remarked that "under the prosperity created by the republican party, the government had in its strong box over \$800,000,000." He was asked if he believed that there was that much money belonging to the United States in the treasury. He replied: "Of course it belongs to the United States. Who else could it belong to?"

It happened that the editor had in his pocket several statements of the treasurer of the United States which he had just received. He stopped and showed the republican business man the following:

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury, Division of Book-keeping and Warrants, Form No. 168.	
Statement of the United States Treasury on the 21st day of January, 1902.	
Cash in the Treasury.	
In Divisions of issue and redemption.	
Reserve Fund.	
Gold coin and bullion in division of redemption	\$150,000,000
Trust Funds.	
Held for the redemption of the notes and certificates for which they are respectively pledged.	
Division of Redemption.	
Gold coin	\$322,118,089
Silver dollars	455,284,000
Silver dollars of '90	50,000
Silver bullion of '90	38,183,000
	\$815,635,089
Division of Issue.	
Gold cert. outstanding	\$322,118,089
Silver cert. outstanding	455,284,000
Treas. notes outstanding	38,233,000
	\$815,635,089

After looking over the document the editor remarked: "You see that every dollar of that \$800,000,000 is a trust fund dollar and not one of them belongs to the United States." Then the mullet head turned that document over, looked at both sides of it and said: "That is no official report of the treasury. I know it isn't. Just look here." He took out of his pocket a Chicago daily and read a paragraph from its editorial page making a statement that there was in the treasury over \$800,000,000. The statement was concocted with a great deal of shrewdness. It did not say outright that the money belonged to the United States, but that would be what every reader would infer.

by the democratic steering committee down at Washington with which to fool you pops. Here is the truth right here in this paper."

That man was rather above the average business man. He belongs to literary clubs, is the superintendent of a Sunday school, lives in a fine house and is a member of the best society. When such stolid ignorance is found in the republican following among men of that class, what is to be done? The Independent gives it up.

A BASELESS ASSUMPTION

The Chicago Tribune in discussing Professor Schurman's statement that we would give the Filipinos independence says:

But what assurance can he have that, if the United States shall abdicate its proper functions in the islands, some nation, more masterful and less incompetent to rule than the United States, will not step in and take up the task of government abandoned by Americans? No such islands as the Philippines, ruled by such a race as the Filipinos, would remain long without foreign masters.

The Tribune takes it for granted that because that might be the case the American people must continue to send their young men there to die by the thousand and tax themselves without limit trying to keep the inhabitants of the islands in subjection to the United States. If there ever was a non sequiter, the Tribune makes one in that statement. If the Filipinos cannot maintain an independent government that is no business of ours. If any other nation wants to make war upon them, we shall simply be neutral and let them try it for a while. No interest of the United States would be involved. The United States is under no constitutional obligations to set up or attempt to prevent other nations from setting up governments and holding brown people in the Asiatic seas as subjects. But the Tribune takes it for granted that there is, and draws its conclusion from a baseless assumption.

CRAZE FOR OFFICE HOLDING

The craze for office-holding is one of the most unreasonable crazes that ever afflicted mankind. Why does any man who is making a decent living want to break up his home, go to the cost of moving to the capital for the purpose of holding an office for two years or four at the most, at a salary of \$2,500? Out of that salary must come the cost of living in a city, election expenses, and he must devote five or six months to electioneering. You say the honor of it. Who can name the governors that Nebraska has had? Who, outside of those who have taken an active interest in politics, can even name the Nebraska's United States senators? If there is any honor, it is of a very fleeting kind.

Any man who accepts such an office, having a business to which his attention must be given, must abandon it and at the end of his term begin life all over again. What recompense is there in the "honor" that he achieved and the salary that he gets for sacrifices like these? Of course all these suppositions fall unless we presume the man is honest. If he seeks office for hoolie, then there is some explanation for the action of the impecunious who ride over the state setting up the pins to get nominations and secure elections. If a man simply performs the duty of the office and draws his salary there is certainly nothing in it. He must also take some very great chances and suffer many indignities. He may have been perfectly honest and performed his duties efficiently, and at the end of it all be attacked by a hundred partisan newspapers, his good name blackened by every sort of slander and his life made miserable for years. Why a man wants office is one of those things that the editor of The Independent could never find out. The only way of accounting for it is to say that it is one of those unfortunate crazes that sometimes afflicts society.

WHY PRINCE HENRY COMES

A private letter to the editor of The Independent from a person in Washington who has long been in a position to know the secret workings of diplomatic corps, political schemers and bank manipulators and whose tips of which he has given many to The Independent in the past, have always turned out true, says that all the guesses made about the cause of the visit of the brother of the emperor of Germany are away off. No one believes that his coming is simply to cement the friendship between this country and his own. This correspondent says that his coming is of world wide significance, but for very different reasons from any that have been publicly suggested. The main object he claims are that he will undertake to come to an understanding with this country in regard to the Boer war, and that an effort will be made to inaugurate some plan to bring it to a close. It is intimated that the English diplomatic office is really at the bottom of the whole thing, for the English are very anxious to get out of the trouble in some sort of a way that will not ruin their prestige. The Independent, only, says that the manager of the new organization,