

ON EARTH GOOD WILL TO MEN

The Choirs of Christendom Sing Loud Hosannas on This Festal Morn and the World rejoices.

THE BANKERS RESERVE LIFE

Joining in the Chorus, Serenely Surveys the Field of Its Labors and Has No Enemies to Punish.

On Easter morning Christendom should lay down the weapons of defense and defense. The day is one of peace on earth and good will to men. The agnostic and infidel alike with the Christian can echo the sentiment which begot the anniversary, however they may doubt the story of the Redeemer or disagree with the dogmas of the theologians.

THE SEASON OF THE YEAR suggests the return of life and the re-opening of all the avenues of commercial as well as social activity. The Lenten season is one of reflection, of meditation and of repentance. The resurrection morn awakens anew the energies of hope and sweetens the lives of all God's creatures. Meanwhile the thoughtful man, turning from the joys of Easter, faces again the strenuous activities of existence, and,

REALIZING LIFE'S UNCERTAINTIES.

makes secure the future by husbanding his resources. He selects good life insurance company, takes out a policy upon his life as a protection against the disaster of death. At the same time he secures a form of policy which not only affords protection for those dependent upon him, but at the same time enables him to bank a surplus against misfortune during his lifetime.

THE BANKERS' RESERVE LIFE, a thoroughly modern, western institution, organized under the laws of Nebraska, managed by Nebraska people, depositing its securities with the state authorities, offers to him the best of insurance plans and meets every requirement of a conservative business investment. At peace with the world and seeking no punishment for its enemies on this peaceful occasion, it simply asks the support of those who believe in western financial institutions, because it is worthy, full of energy and thoroughly up-to-date.

B. H. ROBISON, PRESIDENT of this aggressive and growing young company, is directing its affairs with an eye single to the permanency and success of the Bankers' Reserve Life Association. He and his associates carefully scrutinize all risks offered and watch with constant attention every item of expense and asset for the protection and profit of the policy holders. Being a mutual company, every policy holder has a vote in its annual meetings and the company is managed on the principles of

EACH FOR ALL AND ALL FOR EACH.

State Affairs

The Independent extends congratulations to Bro. Burr of the Hamilton County Register on the new make-up. The Register is now a four-column, sixteen-page paper, similar in style of farm journals, and all home print. Typographically the paper is at the top of the list; and when Burr gets down to editorial work he will make things hum.

LOCAL BICKERINGS.

In Thurston county both the republicans and fusionists are having a merry time with the gang that has for years been working the Indian agency business for all it is worth. The fight has been going on for years, but has recently broken out with renewed vigor since the revelations made by Representative Robinson in congress. Mark Murray, who has always been on the anti-gang side, makes the following comment in a recent number of his paper, the Pender Times: "Col. J. W. Huntsberger rose up in all his manly might and dignity and informed this sinful old world last week how just and virtuous he is. He has no use for the 'offscourings'—(democrats, populists, anti-gang republicans, reservation farmers, etc.)—but he thanks God that he has stand-in and pull with the 'better class'—(the O'Connors, the Mathewsons, etc.). If we remember correctly there was an old guy in Bible times who was thankful that he, too, was unlike the 'offscourings,' and if you'll remember, too, the Lord didn't have any use for the fellow, but on the other hand, thought kindly of the poor, lowly sinner that didn't have a pull with the 'better class.'"

THAT PASS QUESTION.

If the railroad passes to the country press were withdrawn there would be a great time. The 2x4 editors would print lots of facts concerning railroad extortion that would wake up the people. That is what the railroads give passes to prevent. The editors are afraid to print the facts they have because it means the loss of the bribe called a pass. Public educators—Appeal to Reason.

That is one time Bro. Wayland hit the nail squarely on the head, and it would do no harm if a lot of our Nebraska editors would do a little hard thinking on the subject. The habit of swapping advertising space for mileage books has become a fixed one. Most of the boys actually think they are paying for what they get—and doubtless they are, but not in the way

road tickets? What's the use of this barter, this relic of barbarism, this swapping?

The Independent knows of a case where the question was put squarely to a railroad official: "Do you consider these advertising contracts in the light of favor extended the newspapers, or as strictly business propositions?" and the answer came back, "We regard them in the light of favors extended."

WHO IS DICTATING?

A good friend of The Independent, in a private letter to one of the editors, says that "the stand The Independent is taking in regard to Meserve and Sornborger will be detrimental to the paper as well as the paper. . . . News and facts are what the people want and not dictation."

The good brother seems to wholly overlook the fact that The Independent is just as much entitled to have opinions as anybody else, and equally entitled to express them. It has never taken the stand that others must think as it does. Any newspaper man who will smother his opinions for the sake of a few subscribers is not entitled to bear the name of populist. And the good brother, in his fear that The Independent is trying to dictate to him, turns "round and does the thing he condemns." "News and facts," he says, "are what the people want and not dictation." What is that but dictation to the editor? And who is better qualified to judge than the editor, especially when he sees new subscribers coming in by the hundreds every week?

The Independent gives "facts and news;" it gives the editor's opinions on many matters; and its 15,000 subscribers seem to like it, even if they do not agree with everything it contains.

ELKHORN VS. BURLINGTON.

One of the most interesting "scraps" ever witnessed in Nebraska is going on right now in the republican ranks.

Of course everybody knows that the State Journal has for years worn a brass collar with a magic inscription, "B. & M." Since the merger, and the "gentlemen's agreement" between Jim Hill and the U. P., there has been little friction between the B. & M. and the U. P.—in fact a "community of interests" has been established.

But the Elkhorn system is crowded away from the pie counter and there are evidences that before long there'll be razors flying in the air. In fact they're flying now. Mention was made of the fact that Frank Harrison (cycleter, "Thundermaker" by the populists) some eight weeks ago had begun the publication of a weekly called the Nebraska State Record, and those who know Harrison began to wonder what he was driving at. From the outset he attacked the present republican state administration all along the line. Senators Dietrich and Millard, and Congressman Burkett, too, came in for their share of the Harrisionian vitriol.

Those who know Harrison know that he doesn't engage in newspaper business for his health—and they wondered what influences could be back of the State Record. Finally through the gloom came a ray of light. Harrison is attacking every republican maverick that the Burlington has branded B. & M. He couldn't be favoring the U. P. for the two roads have no differences. It was the Elkhorn. That's the secret. Beyond a doubt the Elkhorn is backing Harrison and his son.

Well, he's doing an artistic job, but it's a hopeless fight. The Burlington will control the next republican state convention.

EXCELLENT, INDEED.

While Governor Savage is in the letter-writing mood, it will be a good idea for him to answer these questions, which are being generally propounded:

- What was your business in Denver last week?
- Why did Bartley secretly leave town and follow you on the next train?
- If your business with Bartley at Denver was legitimate and all right, why didn't you go out together?
- If you are interested with Bartley in Colorado mining property, what do you think the people think?

Since George W. Holdrege met you at Denver, are you willing to tell what his connection is in the mining deal?—Nebraska State Record (Elkhorn rep.).

at Liberty to do exactly the opposite of what the statutes tell us to do?"

"We would not only be at liberty, your honor, we would be bound to do the thing that will enable us to ascertain the fair cash value of this property. That is the fundamental duty that is imposed upon us."

Think of the monumental ignorance, or the rascality, of the legislator who would "subtract the bonded indebtedness from the value of the capital stock" in order to ascertain the value of a franchise. The railroads of the United States are stocked and bonded as follows:

Stocks	\$5,845,579,592
Bonds	5,645,455,367

Difference \$ 200,124,226

According to the Omaha idea, then, all the railroad franchises are worth a little more than two hundred million dollars, or about \$1,000 per mile for the 192,556 miles of road in the United States. As a matter of fact, however, the bonded debt of any corporation usually represents about the amount actually invested, while the stock represents the intangible property or franchise. Accordingly the franchises of the American railroads are worth nearly six billions instead of two hundred millions, or about \$30,000 per mile of line. Now, this franchise isn't anything that can be seen or heard—but it can be felt nevertheless. It has a very unpleasant feeling to the poor devils who have to pay twice as high for freight rates, because the roads insist upon earning returns upon their actual property as well as on this invisible something called a franchise. Here in Nebraska the legislature has been very lax about taxing franchises although the constitution plainly says they shall be taxed. The railroads pay taxes on about \$26,000,000 valuation, but that is based on the actual property at anywhere from one-fourth to one-seventh of its actual cash value. But their franchises in Nebraska are nearly as valuable as their actual property. Why not tax them?

Of course this will require some additional legislation. The republican legislature has swept away the last vestige of law looking to any control over freight rates, but we still have left the power to tax. Let us use it. Let us compel them, and all other corporations enjoying special privileges, to pay their just share of the burdens. At the least calculation the railroads of Nebraska ought to pay taxes on a valuation of from \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000. They are earning a good income on much a larger sum than that. They ought not to pay any higher taxes on their actual property than anybody else; but they enjoy a special privilege, the power to charge "all the traffic will bear." We have a right to tax them on the value of that privilege. Let us do it.

Inadvertently The Independent omitted the name of E. A. Brown of the Sherman County Times-Independent, Loup City, as one of the charter members of the populist editorial association last week. Secretary McIntosh had the list of names, and the editor was unable to recall all of them from memory.

The Independent acknowledges the kindness of Representative W. L. Stark in sending it a copy of H. R. 12350, the Fowler bill. "To maintain the gold standard, provide an elastic currency, equalize the rates of interest throughout the country, and further amend the national banking laws."

CANCER MICROBE SAID TO HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED.

The Cancer Germ said to have been discovered by an Eastern Physician caused great surprise. Heretofore this disease was supposed to be caused by a cell growth. Careful experiments are being made. Dr. Bye, the Eminent Cancer Specialist, of Kansas City, Mo., is being besieged by hundreds of people suffering with this dread disease. The Doctor is curing many cases, thought to be incurable, with the combination of a Medicated Oil. Persons suffering or having friends afflicted should write for an illustrated book on the treatment of cancer, tumor, ulcer, piles, fistula and all skin and womb diseases. Address Dr. W. O. Bye, Cor. 5th & Broadway, Kansas City, Mo.

THE MAN ON HORSEBACK

A visitor at The Independent office the other day wondered why Bartley, Savage and Holdrege, instead of sneaking off to Denver to hold their conference, didn't go down to Savage's new \$34,000 ranch on the Red river in Louisiana. The undoubtedly privacy of that place and the many gentle memories which it would revive in the minds of Bartley and Savage especially, ought to make it an ideal spot. But of course they ought to take Charlie Whedon along.

TAXATION OF FRANCHISES.

What some legislators don't know about some things would fill several large sized volumes. Up in Omaha there is a big lawsuit on over the efforts of the corporations to shirk the payment of their just share of the taxes. Some of the heavy taxpayers brought an action in mandamus to compel the taxing power to do the right thing. This suit was brought in the supreme court and that body appointed Robert Ryan of Lincoln as referee. J. H. McIntosh represents the relations and Cheap Wheat Webster very naturally represents the tax-shrinking corporations.

The hearing before Referee Ryan has been pending several days. The other day intangible property was the point to which Attorney McIntosh devoted most of his attention. "As Mr. Morrison told us the other day," said he, "the way to get at the value of a franchise is to add the value of the capital stock to the bonded indebtedness of the corporation, and then from this deduct the value of the tangible property. The result will be the value of the intangible property, or, in other words, the franchise."

"But the statute says we must subtract the bonded indebtedness from the value of the capital stock," objected Referee Ryan.

"True," said Mr. McIntosh, "and

is only natural that he should draft a bill of that character and that Miles, brought up under the shadow of Bunker Hill, should denounce it as he did. It is no political or party cry, this cry against imperialism. Everything portends the coming of the military autocrat—the man on horseback. The stolid indifference and partisan prejudice of the voters makes it possible."

Another penalty that a just God is inflicting upon the United States for its wars of conquest against the people of the islands of southern and tropical seas, is leprosy. The medical officers of the marine service have found 278 cases of leprosy in the United States and express the opinion that that is not nearly all of them for the disease is very easily concealed in its first stages. One result of imperialism already attained is the spread of smallpox and leprosy all over the country with a prospect that Asiatic cholera and the bubonic plague will follow. Have you had enough of it?

A Lincoln Republican

Editor Independent: I fully indorse and appreciate The Independent as the people's paper—true, fearless and bold. Prosperity has not yet reached the poor working class here, especially we, who eke out a bare living cutting cord wood, which must be shipped over branch of Jim Hill's railroad to Spokane market. The freight on one cord of wood is over, or about half what the producer gets for his labor and timber—in store trade at fancy prices. Taxes are sure and heavy, at the rate of about \$5 on \$150 value of personal property; but corporations and combines escape and flourish. My father was an Abraham Lincoln man and I was raised to believe in Lincoln doctrines, in Lincoln republicanism. I believe in these doctrines yet and claim to be a Lincoln republican yet, but although I am 39 years old I have never been able to bring myself to vote the current republican (Gray, Wash.)

Great Bargain in A Dinner Set

\$3.45



We will ship packed securely, to any point in the United States, this fine Alfred Meekin English White Semi Porcelain Housekeepers Dinner Assortment, 42 pieces, consisting of the following for \$3.45

This is the latest pattern on the market in white porcelain and is handsomely embossed as the cut illustrates. If you wish for a larger set send for special price list. This pattern can be matched by us at any future time.

Jitzy Gerald
DRY GOODS CO.

Our spring catalogue is now ready for distribution. Send us your name if you wish one.

The Progressive Store, Lincoln, Nebraska.

ENCOURAGING LETTERS

Readers in Every State and Territory Recognize the Importance of the Undertaking to Construct Liberty Building

ORDERS FOR POSTALS FROM EVERYWHERE

Many Have Sent for the Second and Third Block, Recognizing the Independent as the Foremost Champion of Liberty

in America

During the past week The Independent has received hundreds of encouraging letters from its readers in every part of the country commanding it for the splendid work it is doing in defending the rights of the plain people.

Slowly but surely the powers of plutocracy are advancing and encroaching upon the rights of the people. On every hand can be found evidence that the present administration is hand in glove with the money power of the country. Special privileges are continually given to those who have already grown rich and powerful through special favors from the government and gradually the people are denied rights guaranteed by the constitution and the Declaration of Independence. The scriptural prophecy that "To him that hath shall be given and from him that hath not shall be taken even the little that he hath," is being literally fulfilled. To press of the country, subsidized by the gold of plutocracy and hypnotized by the glories of conquest makes no protest. Through ignorance of the real dangers the people tamely submit. If liberty and the privileges of self-government beneath the American flag can be denied to people in the Philippines islands on the merest excuse by the powers of organized greed now in control of the government, how long will it be before the same powers find good and sufficient excuse to deny the same privileges to the people at home? It is only by education that the people can be awakened to the real dangers ahead. The best educator is a weekly newspaper if edited honestly and fearlessly. It is a weekly text-book, a lesson once a week to all who receive and read it. With this in mind readers of The Independent everywhere are making every effort to increase its circulation. For their assistance The Independent is thankful and in return will fight the best fight that it can in their behalf. As our army of readers increases the good that we can do becomes greater. To all who send for a block of five or ten, we will send a roll of sample copies of The Independent for free distribution to the people at home? It is only by education that the people can be awakened to the real dangers ahead. The best educator is a weekly newspaper if edited honestly and fearlessly. It is a weekly text-book, a lesson once a week to all who receive and read it. With this in mind readers of The Independent everywhere are making every effort to increase its circulation. For their assistance The Independent is thankful and in return will fight the best fight that it can in their behalf. As our army of readers increases the good that we can do becomes greater. To all who send for a block of five or ten, we will send a roll of sample copies of The Independent for free distribution to the people at home? It is only by education that the people can be awakened to the real dangers ahead. The best educator is a weekly newspaper if edited honestly and fearlessly. 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