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From the reports from Washington there seems to be something rotten in the state of Denmark.

It was a republican cannon from Illinois, the home of Lincoln, who shot the light out of the torch of liberty.

From the constant reports in the financial magazines it appears that the trusts are mainly engaged in manufacturing stocks and bonds, and the market continues to be a good one for that product.

The operations of the British army in these United States as told in the News of the Week in another column of this issue, will perhaps cause a few republicans to doubt the Americanism of the cabinet of President Roosevelt.

From the assaults of Roosevelt upon General Miles it would appear that he really believes that there is no other man in the United States who had a right to presidential aspirations besides himself.

H. Clay Evans was discharged from the pension office—that is the truth about the matter—but his employer is hustling around to find a better place for him.

Many of the same signs of a rotting civilization are appearing both in England and America that Junival turned his lances at when Rome started on her downward course that ended in the dark ages.

The greatest monopoly in the United States is not the steel trust or any other industrial organization, but the railroads. They have something to sell that all the people must buy and can fix the price to suit themselves.

Joe Parker, having nothing else respectable attached to his aggregation, undertook to steal an honored name and attach it to work of the most disreputable set of political fakirs that ever showed their heads in the dirtiest pools of politics.

President Roosevelt seems to really believe that there is not enough room for more than one military hero in the United States at one time and that he is the man. Therefore he has ordered Dewey, Schley and Miles to take back seats while he performs.

The oleomargarine bill as it passed the senate seems to place that article and adulterated or process butter both in the same category and a tax is levied upon them both of 10 cents a pound. On uncolored oleo the tax is one-fourth cent a pound.

Gambling on horse races has become so general and demoralizing in England that the London Daily News has excluded all news of the races and gambling of all sorts from its columns. Is there a great daily in the United States that would dare to do a thing like that?

The workmen of New York held a large meeting in Cooper institute in memory of Governor Altgeld last week. Resolutions were passed expressing respect for his memory as one who "fought valiantly and died gloriously in the greatest of all causes—that of humanity."

Teddy may retire General Miles, for under the law he has the power to do it, but The Independent predicts that it will be a long time before he can get a successor confirmed by the senate. Every man who ever saw service in the army in the senate is hot over the way Roosevelt acted in regard to Miles' testimony before a senate committee.

The labor organizations all over the United States are not only making vigorous objections to the oleomargarine bill, but to the excessively high price of meat. As to the latter, they can find the cause by taking a glance at the dividends declared by the meat trust. That small body of philanthropists has distributed to its stockholders over \$100,000,000 in profits during the last year besides greatly en-

IMPERIALISM AT HOME

The operations of imperialism in the United States should teach the people a lesson and give them some idea of what it is when it gets 10,000 miles from home. When it once gets hold, it is almost impossible to get rid of it. The Indians of the United States have been governed on this principle and every one knows the result. The legislation that was secured some 20 years ago was an attempt to change the system. But look how it hangs on. The Indians in Nebraska are citizens entitled to all the rights, privileges and immunities of any other citizens. They vote and hold office. But the imperial authorities at Washington insist on appointing an agent for them. They have evolved a scheme that provides a government trader, who can live on the reservation to the exclusion of other merchants and has privileges that are denied to others in the collection of bills.

But on account of the Indians in Nebraska having votes enough in one district to control the election of a congressman, one in two years, just before a congressional election, the politicians wake up to the importance of obtaining justice for them and generally about that time there is an overhauling of things at the agency and enough is accomplished to prevent all the schemes of the carpet-bag imperial employes from being put into execution.

Out in Arizona, that being a territory, the inhabitants being subjects to congress and having, under the decision of the supreme court, no constitutional rights whatever, the thing is different. The Pima and Maricopa Indians of that territory have been farmers for hundreds of years raising their little crops by irrigation, having held their water rights for many generations. Parties have come in and cut off their water supply and the whole tribe is starving. There is no court to which they can appeal, and the bureaucrats at Washington have other things to attend to. This is imperialism at home. It produces famine and death, and that is the final result of it everywhere.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED

It is astonishing how the people will quietly submit to robbery in all sorts of ways. They allow their representatives to make gifts of hundreds of millions to the already rich in the way of franchises and then allow another set of their representatives to exempt these gifts from taxation, while they pile the taxes on the poor. Cornelius Vanderbilt for many years paid taxes on \$400,000. When he died and his will was probated it was found that he was worth \$53,000,000. The fact of this amount of wealth being officially determined it would have been reasonable to suppose that thereafter it would be taxed at the same rate that the little accumulations of the workmen were taxed. But that was not the case at all. The inheritors of the fortune went on paying taxes at the same rate as before, notwithstanding that the most drastic laws were on the statute books declaring that all property should be taxed equally. As with the Vanderbilt fortune, so with hundreds of other great fortunes in the city of New York and all the other great cities. In Cook county, Illinois, in which Chicago is situated, the assessors' returns showed farm implements to be of greater value than all the immense wealth of the great bankers. This fact was published in most of the dailies, but the people of the county went on electing to office the same men who perpetrated this fraud upon the poor.

The District of Columbia is governed by congress. A few years ago a committee, composed of an equal number from both parties, was appointed to investigate the subject of taxation in the District. The value of the property as returned by the assessors was \$75,000,000, but this committee reported that its value was \$750,000,000, and further that nearly all the taxes were paid by the poor and those in moderate circumstances, while the rich went almost free. What is true of Washington is true of the whole country.

The rich being the ruling class and paying but little of taxes that are levied and collected, accounts for the extravagant appropriations made by congress and the state legislatures. The rich do the appropriating and the poor pay the bill. If the rich had to pay in proportion to the value of their property and at the same rate that the poor pay, there never would have been \$60,000,000 appropriated for the improvement of the unknown creeks, rivers and bays that we find in the river and harbor bill, neither would a ship subsidy donating \$180,000,000 to a few millionaires have ever received a majority in the United States senate, for upon the announcement of the introduction of such a bill, committees from boards of trade, banking syndicates and railroad corporations would have flocked to Washington and overwhelmed congress with their protestations.

But the most unaccountable thing

poor seem to like to pay the taxes and exempt the millionaires. The poor outnumber the rich a thousand to one and could enforce equal taxation within two years if they made an effort to do so. They will not even sustain a set of officers who make an attempt to reduce taxation. The fusion state government reduced the cost of maintaining the several institutions of this state nearly 50 per cent and in less than four years reduced the state debt \$670,000. The people didn't like that at all, so they turned them out and put the republicans back in office, who will increase the state debt not less than \$600,000 during the first two years of their administration.

The Independent believes that the majority should rule and as long as a majority insist upon the rich being exempt and the poor paying the taxes and constantly increasing the state debt, the rest of us will have to accept the condition of affairs and do the best we can.

AN ASSOCIATED PRESS FAKE

For the greater part of last week the Associated press ran a fake that occupied a column or so in all the great dailies. It was the most disgraceful and bare-faced fake ever perpetrated on the American people. The substance of it was that the people's or populist party was holding a fusion convention in Louisville, Ky., in connection with a job lot of other parties when in fact there was not a member of the people's party there. Jo Parker is not chairman of the national committee of the people's party and has no connection with it whatever. The officers of the people's party national committee are ex-Senator Marion Butler of North Carolina, chairman; J. H. Edmiston of Nebraska, vice chairman, and J. A. Edgerston of Colorado, secretary. These gentlemen and the whole national committee were elected at the convention held at Sioux Falls and will hold their commissions until the meeting of the next national convention. Not one of the persons whose names appear in the Associated press reports from Louisville attended the Sioux Falls convention or are members of the people's party. Yet this aggregation was exploited in the Associated press as "dominated by populists."

An examination of these reports, even by one not familiar with the populist party and its membership, shows it to be a mass of falsehoods. It is claimed that there were 250 delegates present representing twenty-six states, but an examination of the lists of committees shows that there were not enough there to fill them, the same names appearing over and over again.

The men who organized and carried out the farce are the same old Clem Deaver-Joe Parker gang who operated as assistant republicans during the last presidential campaign. The absent ones are those who took their pay in offices instead of cash. Of course the railroads did all they could to help the political fakirs by granting the half fare rates from all parts of the United States. Besides that the convention was called during the Louisville sale of blooded horses. Some fifteen or twenty Nebraskans took advantage of the low rates to attend the sale, but the name of only one appears in connection with the convention.

The Associated press writers know very well who are the officers of the populist national committee and when they paraded Joe Parker as chairman and others as members of that committee, they intended to perpetrate a fake in the interest of republicans. That is the sort of news-gathering that the people of the United States have to rely upon for their facts.

This convention was of exactly the same character as the one called during the last campaign at Grand Island, Neb., by Clem Deaver, and for which, and other work, he was rewarded with a very lucrative office by the republicans. The railroads gave free transportation to every man who would go to Grand Island and doubtless the same favors were shown to Joe Parker and were extended to Deaver. This Louisville scheme was a Mark Hanna side show to fool the unwary and ignorant voters and to such schemes the republican national committee is always willing to furnish all the financial aid that is necessary.

The main point, however, and the one to which The Independent would call attention, is this fake press association. When it will go into a scheme like that it discredits with honorable men all that it may furnish to the public. The people should take warning and give no credence whatever to any news of a political nature that that organization sends out. Another campaign is about to begin. There will be scores more of just such fakes appearing during the next six months.

The Associated press report was a fake, the convention was a fake, but the worst fake of all was when this aggregation of republican assistants resolved to organize a new party and call it the allied "people's" party, thus attempting to steal a name that is honored and respected by two million

THREE WARRIORS

General Miles was clearly within the army regulations when he wrote the letter to Secretary Root proposing a plan of campaign. He is the lieutenant general, nominally in command of the army of the United States. The letter of course went to the president. It would be well for the editors of the Associated press and imperialist dailies, before indulging in sarcastic remarks to remember the records of these three men which is as follows:

War record of Nelson A. Miles: Entered United States army in 1861 as a volunteer; saw field service in some 20 battles and engagements, many of them the greatest and most sanguinary of the civil war; rose grade by grade, for highly meritorious service, to the rank of major-general of volunteers, and commanded an army corps in active service at the age of 25; conducted several successful campaigns against hostile Indians, notably the one against the Apaches in 1885-6; led in person the army which invaded Porto Rico in 1898, and conquered the island without bloodshed, at the same time winning the confidence of the people, his military strategy in making a landing on the south side, contrary to the plans of the war department, being universally commended; made lieutenant general of regular army in 1900.

War record of Theodore Roosevelt—President New York police board, 1895-97; assistant secretary of the navy, 1897-98; lieutenant colonel and colonel of "rough riders" in campaign against Santiago, June and July, 1898.

War record of Secretary Root—New York corporation lawyer.

The letter of General Miles was not written for publication and its contents was given out by the war department. The plan of General Miles was not Funstonian and in consequence of that fact the president was very much irritated, but after all is said the fact remains that General Miles had a legal right to submit his views and is not responsible for the giving of his letter to the public.

SUBSIDIZED MORTON

In the last edition of his paper—we were going to say "newspaper," but that would be altogether too ridiculous—Morton says that the republicans can beat the best populist in the state who may be nominated for governor, but "it is a serious question whether the republican party can defeat the best honest-money democrat," and Morton, of course, is that best honest money democrat. It was the innate modesty of the man that caused him to publish that fact. The modesty of subsidized editors is something remarkable and Morton's modesty is the most remarkable of all, because his subsidy is the whole thing, the paper having no appreciable income from any other source. A glance at his advertising pages will disclose that fact. He has a half page ad. from the Standard Oil company for lubricating oils, the factory being located at Franklin, Pa. Next comes a quarter page from the Chicago National bank, the Wells Fargo & Co. National bank of San Francisco, one from the salt trust, the Colorado Fuel and Iron trust and a quarter page each from the Commercial National and the American Trust and Savings banks of Chicago.

One of The Independent force recently went into the office of a national bank and solicited an ad. Both the president and cashier declared that they did not advertise at all. When shown one of their ads. in Morton's paper they said that was another matter altogether, that the ad. was not inserted for any business reasons, but because Morton was a hard money man and the ad. was placed there for the purpose of advocating those principles and not for any returns that they expected to get.

That is the way the plutocratic press is subsidized everywhere. Not one of these firms, and also many others, would place an ad. in such a paper as The Independent, so The Independent must rely upon its subscriptions for most of its income. Thousands of its readers understand that fact and some of them do all in their power to extend the circulation.

VERY AMUSING

It is amusing to read some of the remarks of republican editors concerning money that are occasionally printed these days. Some of them say: "Yes, money will purchase more than it did in 1896, but that is because it is better money and there is more of it." The Kansas City Journal remarks: "Yes, a dollar would buy more in 1896 than it will now, but there are so many more dollars and not so much buying then as now." Another erudite editorial writer for one of the republican dailies says: "As money grows more plentiful under the republican administration, it grows better." It would have done for that editor to have said: "As money grows more plentiful under the republican administration, it grows cheaper," for that is what the reform forces and Bryan said, and that same editor had been denouncing "cheap money" for years. The enormous coinage of silver under the last two republican administrations, together

made money more plentiful and cheaper just as the populists said it would, but these republican editors have so long practiced prevarication and falsehood that it has become impossible for them to make a frank and truthful statement. Their twistings, turnings and tergiversations are immensely amusing.

NO MORE GREAT SPEECHES

The London newspapers are talking about "the deterioration of the house of commons." They say that there are no great speeches in the house any more, that the discussion when it does not deteriorate into calling one another "d--d liars," "pro-Boers," "malignant slanderers," never rises higher than an attempt to catch another in some unguarded phrase and twist it into something that the author of it never intended. That is the condition in the American house and senate. A common cause produces the same effect in both parliamentary bodies. It is the result of the infamous proposition: "My government, right or wrong," the universal censorship and the degradation that always accompanies imperialism. Such situations inspire neither noble thoughts nor patriotic utterances. Every great address that has come down to us from the past was delivered in defense of liberty. Not one of them was inspired by wars of conquest, and while wars of conquest are being waged by the British and American governments we can expect nothing from the parliamentary bodies of the two countries other than what is now criticized.

SIXTEEN AND AN EIGHTH TO ONE

The following amusing article appeared in the Chicago Tribune and shows to what straights the administration has been driven by the monetary situation in the Philippines. It was as follows:

In the Philippine bill reported to the senate today there is a specific provision for the coinage of a special Philippine dollar to take the place of the Mexican dollar which is now the retail coin of the islands. The provision adopted by the committee provides that any one may bring silver to the mint and have it coined into these Philippine dollars.

This has led many people into the belief that the senate has adopted free coinage of silver outright for the Philippines. This Philippine dollar, however, is really nothing more nor less than so much silver bullion minted by the United States to determine its fineness and weight. Beyond that the government of the United States assumes no liability for it. It is made a legal tender in the Philippines, but as a Philippine dollar only.

The United States does not guarantee to redeem the coin in gold or greenbacks, and the Philippine dollar will not even be a legal tender at its bullion value in the United States. It will not, therefore, pay people to bring silver to the mints and have it coined into the Philippine dollars because they are worth practically no more so coined than when in the form of bullion.

Mr. Bryan's free coinage idea was to bring silver to the mints at its bullion value, and by the mere process of coining transmute it into legal tender value on a fixed proportion to that of gold.

There is absolutely no 16 to 1 in connection with the Philippine dollars. They will circulate for what they are worth, and are expected to drive out the Mexican dollar only because the latter are badly minted, frequently vary in weight, and are not always above suspicion as to the amount of alloy used.

Even the ordinary reader will detect about a dozen contradictions in it. The Independent will point out one or two. "This Philippine dollar is really nothing more than so much bullion minted." "It is made a legal tender in the Philippines." Bullion is not legal tender, but this dollar is. Yet it is nothing more than minted bullion!

It seems that the republicans, although compelled to establish free coinage of silver in the Philippines, could not quite bring themselves to 16 to 1. They made it 16 1/2 to 1, and so went Bryan one-eighth better.

The charge made against the mints of Mexico is an insult to that nation and if it came from a responsible source the state department would likely hear from the Diaz government. Mr. Bryan's idea is to be enacted into law in the Philippines which was to bring silver bullion to the mints and by the process of coining transmute into legal tender money, the only difference being that the coinage in the Philippines will be at the ratio of 16 1/2 to 1 instead of 16 to 1.

The Boer general, Samuel Pearson, has finished his investigations at New Orleans and returned to Washington prepared to sustain his charge that the British authorities, in defiance of the laws of neutrality, have set up a regular military establishment in Louisiana. General Pearson says there are one British general, two British colonels, and sixty British captains and lieutenants in this country now, with headquarters at New Orleans. He alleges that the United States has contributed 42,000 men to aid the British and furnished them with 201,147 horses

RAILROAD COURTS

Mr. Charles A. Prouty of the interstate commerce commission, declared in his speech in Chicago that the records of the commission showed that five men in New York controlled 125,000 miles of the 200,000 miles of railroad in the United States and fixed the rates thereon. The other 75,000 consists of small roads dependent upon the larger systems. Here is a state of affairs such as the world never saw before. It has been built up by the decisions of republican courts which rendered all attempts to regulate charges on the railroads futile. Nebraska has tried it and other states have tried it and not one of them has ever succeeded. With these enormous properties in the hands of private individuals they can control legislatures, congress and the courts. Nearly every federal judge on the bench today secured his appointment by railroad influence. However much censure may be meted out to venal legislatures and boodling members of congress, the fact is notorious that the great triumphs of the railroad corporations have been secured through the courts. All Nebraska knows how the attempt to secure equitable rates in this state was nullified by the courts. The federal courts are railroad courts and it is by their decisions that the monopoly has become all powerful.

HYPOCRISY

The Independent has frequently used the word "hypocrisy" because it was a necessity. A distinguished professor in our university a short time ago, speaking on an entirely non-political subject, remarked that all the other nations of the earth frequently brought the accusation against all Anglo-Saxons that they were unblushing hypocrites. That was the opinion held concerning us by the Germans, Dutch, Russians, French, Italians, and all the peoples of Europe. Could anything else be expected? The Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the United States are familiar documents the whole world over. The great, patriotic and liberty-inspiring orations of the past are cherished in the hearts of all men of all nations. The career of Lincoln, the war for the freedom of the slaves is known to every peasant. Now when they see the United States abandoning all the ideals of the past, repudiating the Declaration of Independence, trampling the constitution under foot, engaging in wars of conquest, perpetrating cruelties that only have an equal among the Mogul conquerors, elevating such men as Funston to high command in the army, attempting to disgrace such men as Dewey, Schley and Miles, sending great and costly embassies to help crown a king, and at the same time claiming to love liberty and free government, what else is there to be expected than that we should be scoffed at by all Europe as a nation of hypocrites? Beware of the heaven of imperialism which is hypocrisy.

FUNSTONIAN IGNORANCE

Funston is hot over the newspaper criticism of his imperialistic statements. He declared at Topeka, Kas., that the editors who had criticized him "knew a great deal more about the articles of golf than they knew about the articles of war." After that he declared that "everything is permissible in a campaign except the use of poison and the violation of a flag of truce."

Now there are thirty-eight rules of war which put restraints upon contending forces which have been adopted by all civilized nations and among them are the following:

- First—Traitorous attempts upon the life of an enemy, as, for example, feigning to surrender.
- Second—Attacking an enemy by concealing the distinctive signs of an armed force.
- Third—Using improperly the national flag, uniform or other distinctive signs of the enemy.
- Fourth—Killing or injuring an enemy who has surrendered or is disabled, or to declare in advance that quarter will not be given.
- Fifth—Robbing or mutilating the bodies of the dead.

The broad and unqualified statement of Funston shows him to be an ignorant braggart, wholly unfit to hold the commission that was bestowed upon him for the dirtiest piece of work with which any officer of the United States army was ever connected.

CHICAGO IS POPULIST

The Independent has frequently called attention to the growth of populism in all parts of the country. Public ownership of public utilities is distinctively a populist principle, having long since become one of the permanent planks in its platforms. The voters of Chicago are overwhelmingly in favor of this plan.

As a means of testing public opinion in the city of Chicago on the ownership of public utilities, a referendum vote was had at the late municipal election in that city. The total vote cast on these propositions was 150,531. On the municipal ownership of street railways the voted stood—for, 124,524; against, 26,007. On the mu-

light plants the vote stood—for, 129,190; against, 19,907. For nomination of candidates by direct vote at primaries the vote was 125,082; against, 15,851. While these votes are of no binding effect, none of the propositions voted on being before the city in a legal way, they are significant as showing what is going on in the public mind, and as indicating a trend of public opinion on these questions.

If a referendum vote were taken on any other large city the result would be practically the same. If a referendum was taken in the whole United States there can be no doubt that the people would run up just as great majorities for the public ownership of railroads and telegraphs. It is on partisan insanity, the belief that a man must vote for a certain party name, that prevents populism from controlling the United States government as well as every one of its states. The things that populists advocate are really the things that a very large majority of the people want.

WASTE AND SAVING

Trust advocates are always declaiming about the great savings effected by consolidation and combination. Here is a specimen of the "saving" effected by the tin trust, quoted from The Bookkeeper, a magazine for accountants:

Original salaries, 119 bookkeepers, at 1,200.....	\$142,800
19 discontinued.....	\$22,800
100 reduced one-half.....	60,000
	82,800

Bookkeeping cost under the trust.....	\$60,000
Salaries at headquarters, at a high estimate.....	10,000
Total bookkeeping expense \$70,000	
Net saving to the trust \$72,800	
Net loss to the bookkeepers.....	82,800

The trust "saved" \$72,800 and the 119 bookkeepers lost all told \$82,800. 19 of them lost their jobs and 100 of them had their wages cut down 50 per cent. The Independent can't feel very sorry for those of them who continue to vote the republican ticket, knowing that it upholds that kind of "saving."

The tremendous emigration from the United States into western Canada shows that emigration does not follow the flag, but the best chance of making a living. There are great bodies of land, good for raising wheat, which is given to any one who will come and cultivate it. It is said that if the present rate of migration is kept up at least 2,000,000 of Americans will find homes there in the next few years. But unless the Dominion government adopts a different policy towards the railroads than what has prevailed in the United States, these emigrants will find that they have only gone there to pile up fortunes for railroad magnates. At present they take "all the traffic will bear" in Canada the same as in this country. The result is the farmers will cultivate the soil for a bare existence while the millionaires gather in the profits and add to their fortunes, while the most of them spend their time sailing in yachts or hanging around the courts of European monarchs.

What may be expected of a gold democrat can be gathered from the minority report of Representative McClanahan of New York on Cuban reciprocity. While hypocritically pretending to be a democrat and in favor of lower tariffs, his report is so worded as to inspire every republican in the house to stand by the Dingley tariff. One sentence of that report is as follows: "The bill is an enunciation of the democratic doctrine of reciprocity, it is a breach in the wall of protection, and lowers in part the preposterous Dingley rates." That is a great argument to use to induce a republican house to pass the bill. It was intended to help kill the bill and help the tariff grafters of all shades and kinds to continue their robberies. Of such stuff are gold democrats made.

The evidence given in the court-martial of Major Waller at Manila for shooting prisoners is corroborative of the statement of General Miles that war had been carried on with "marked severity." In his defense Major Waller has introduced testimony to show that everything that he did was inspired by General Smith, the commander of the department. General Miles is a better judge of what constitutes "severity" in war than the corporation lawyer, Root, who calls it only "benevolent assimilation."

It is stated that Mrs. Altgeld is in very straitened circumstances and an effort is being made to raise a fund that will keep her from want. We should think that every time a republican editor thought of the fakes that they published about Governor Altgeld's gold bonds, that he would want somebody to kick him. But republican editors have no regard to amenities of life such as are common among gentlemen, and doubtless they chuckle