

A SUBSIDIZED NEWSPAPER

The Trusts, Banks and Great Corporations Organized and United Subsidize the Press and Deceive the People

J. STERLING MORTON RECEIVING "HAND-OUTS"

How it is Possible to Send Copies of "The Conservative" Broadcast Over the Country Free of Charge

One day this week the manager of The Independent called upon a leading banker in this city with a copy of The Independent and requested an advertisement for its columns. The advertisement of the banker had been running in several papers and there seemed no reason why the Independent should not be favored with a share of the banker's patronage. We offered to prove to the estimable banker and his assistant a paid circulation of more than double the number of subscribers of any of the papers in which their advertisement had appeared. For the proof we offered to submit to them for their examination a copy of our subscription list complete and allow them to have it counted by any person or clerk they would designate. We courted investigation to the fullest extent and assured the mighty bankers that they would find among the subscribers to The Independent the most substantial, honorable, and well-to-do farmers in Nebraska and adjoining states—farmers who had money to deposit in banks and men who pay their obligations promptly and without complaint. No bank could ask for a better class of patrons. We assured him that the readers of The Independent would be as desirable patrons for his bank as the readers of the Conservative. He promptly admitted the truth of our statement and replied that the advertisement for the bank was not put in The Conservative because it would help J. Sterling Morton in his effort to educate the people to believe in "hard money." He stated that The Conservative has solicited the advertisement in the interest of spreading the doctrine that he was about the only democrat left who was advocating a sound financial policy and that he needed assistance to keep up the good work. Therefore, said this venal banker, we gave The Conservative an advertisement. He did not believe that it had done the bank any good or that it would do it any good except indirectly as it helped to make the dollar dearer and more completely place the issue of money in the control of banks. This republican bank and republican banker was an enthusiastic admirer of the financial policy of Cleveland democracy. He was spending the bank's money to help a member of Cleveland's cabinet instruct the people in the advantages of Cleveland currency.

These are some of the institutions that pay their money to furnish free reading to the people. It is their patronage and money and the patronage and money of similar institutions that spreads millions of copies of republican publications broadcast over the country. The Independent receives none of their patronage. It can not get it without selling its independence and that it will never do. We'll print a paper devoted to the interests of the people of the country—we'll print the truth without fear or favor and trust to the patronage of the people for our reward. We are now trying to sell Liberty Building subscriptions sufficient to build a home for the Independent. Readers are responding generously and the indications are that the undertaking will be successful. Last week we printed a view of the proposed location. We hope by next week to have sufficient sales of cards to print a view of the proposed building. If you have not sent in your order for a block of five of the cards, why not do so by return mail. You need not pay for the cards until you have sold them. If you can not sell them return them and we will give you credit. It will cost you nothing to try. Write a postal card today and we'll send them to you by return mail.

Here is the list of those who have ordered blocks this week. Many of them have sold several blocks before this:

- | | |
|--|------|
| No. cards ordered. | |
| M. M. Walton Oto, Ia. | 5 |
| Clark Summers, Ida, Neb. | 5 |
| Wm. M. Eller, Custer, S. D. | 5 |
| L. H. Payne, Belden, Neb. | 5 |
| Samuel Heiser, Charleston, Mich. | 5 |
| Gus. A. Olsen, Scandia, Neb. | 5 |
| Thomas Davis, Arthur, Ill. | 5 |
| A. C. Archbold, Hillsboro, Neb. | 5 |
| R. S. Sumner, Fullerton, Neb. | 5 |
| R. C. Snyder, Eaton, Ohio. | 5 |
| J. Webber, St. Michael, Neb. | 5 |
| Wm. Murray, Valparaiso, Neb. | 5 |
| Geo. M. Austin, Milford, Neb. | 5 |
| Frank Lucht, Wolbach, Neb. | 5 |
| Wm. Heagins, Waterloo, Neb. | 10 |
| O. A. Oswald, Holbrook, Neb. | 5 |
| Peter J. Meyer, Oakland, Neb. | 5 |
| Major Wm. Dudley, Peru, Neb. | 5 |
| Jas. A. Hildreth, Walnut, Neb. | 5 |
| A. Kern, Maryville, Mo. | 5 |
| J. E. Tierney, Burr, Neb. | 5 |
| H. Cushman, Reway, Wis. | 5 |
| Jno Motes, Fairbury, Neb. | 5 |
| Herman J. Parnley, Mineral Point, Wis. | 5 |
| J. B. Vaughn, Ft. Calhoun, Neb. | 5 |
| Wm. Fessler, Garnett, Kas. | 5 |
| F. U. Barnard, Fremont, Neb. | 5 |
| J. C. May, Buck Horn, Wyo. | 5 |
| Mrs. R. D. Stewart, Cortland, Neb. | 5 |
| Amos Willson, Lexington, Neb. | 5 |
| D. W. Lamberman, Broken Bow, Neb. | 5 |
| Jno Barnes, Clarks, Neb. | 5 |
| I. S. Merrick, Brainard, Neb. | 5 |
| G. L. Ditto, Brady, Neb. | 5 |
| Jno Peters, Peters, Neb. | 5 |
| C. A. Skoog, Holdrege, Neb. | 5 |
| C. L. Bridge, Savage, Neb. | 5 |
| Geo. H. Maschall, Homestead, Okl. | 5 |
| L. D. Sturdevant, Cedar Rap., Neb. | 5 |
| Jas. Seaman, Norden, Neb. | 5 |
| Jos. Krebeck, Fairbury, Neb. | 5 |
| Geo. A. Millsapugh, Atkinson, Neb. | 5 |
| E. R. Woods, Burwell, Neb. | 5 |
| D. E. Gilbert, Burwell, Neb. | 5 |
| J. S. Williver, Weeping Water, Neb. | 5 |
| L. Q. Bails, Taylor, Neb. | 5 |
| J. E. Evans, Sargent, Neb. | 10 |
| J. H. Chambeon, Dawson, Ia. | 5 |
| Alph. Andrews, Waverton, Neb. | 5 |
| To state committee. | 2500 |
| Grand total. | 4302 |

A QUESTION OF VALUE

Mr. Quinby Replies to the Editor's Query

Editor Independent: I see that the esteemed editor is puzzled "to know how Mr. Quinby reconciles his greenback ideas with the idea that value is "crystallized labor," as Carl Marx would say." I presume the editor refers to what I said in a paper read before the Omaha Philosophical society on irrigation, which was partly used in The Independent. In that I simply stated that the general government should own these works and that in building them, instead of issuing bonds and thereby loading the people with debt, the government should issue greenbacks to pay for them, redeeming the greenbacks in the benefits conferred. I stated that these greenbacks would represent so much stored-up labor and asserted that no money, of whatever material it might be made, could ever actually represent anything else. I stated that the gold in the earth was not only useless, but valueless so long as it might remain there, and that it was labor that gave it its value in mining and refining it, excepting of course that part of the value of gold nowadays that is due entirely to legislation creating a demand for it for coinage. Now I never imagined that such a proposition would be questioned by a greenbacker.

Now, of course, I know that the editor will agree with me that these works should be paid for by government money (greenbacks) rather than bonds. If that is so, will he tell me what these greenbacks represent after the work is completed, if not stored-up or accumulated labor?

Now, as to socialism, I stand where all single taxers do. If you permit me to define socialism, then I am a socialist; but I am not an advocate of the absurdity of the collective (meaning the government) ownership of all the means of production and distribution. I do not believe that men should be "put into leading strings to that sense-

less abstraction called the state." The state is properly the custodian of all values which society at large causes, and the individual is rightly the custodian absolute and complete of those things which his own labor establishes. His ownership of them should be inviolate, and he alone, under a free economic system, should have the right to say upon what conditions he will part with them. If he can secure any profit in the free exchange of his product with another, such is his against all the world.

Omaha, Neb. L. J. QUINBY.

The editor does not question the soundness of Mr. Quinby's greenback proposition, but rather takes exception to his conception of value. The Karl Marx idea is that value is "crystallized social labor"—whatever he may mean by "social labor." This by implication accepts the "intrinsic value" idea as true—something which populists and greenbackers combat. The idea of being the result of the expenditure of energy in producing an article, value is the result of the struggle among individuals to gain possession of that article. The value of anything depends upon the supply of and demand for it—not upon the amount of labor expended in producing it. Naturally, the demand for anything may be modified by the knowledge that its production required a given expenditure of labor, but that is merely an incident. Greenbacks would not be valuable because they represent "so much stored-up labor," as Mr. Quinby says, but because they could be applied to an exceedingly useful service, namely the payment of all debts, public and private; this would

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be their primary use; it is the prime function of any kind of coin. Secondly, they would be useful in facilitating exchanges of commodities; and these two uses would create a demand for them; and this demand, considered in connection with the supply of all money, including greenbacks, the supply of all other exchangeable things, and demand therefor, would determine the value of the greenbacks, in other words, their "power in exchange."

Suppose that five years after the irrigation works had been completed and in successful operation, Mr. Quinby had possession of a \$5 greenback note. Would it be valuable because it represents the "stored-up labor," say, of a man and team two days, or because Mr. Quinby could apply it to the payment of taxes or debt to the amount of \$5? The greenbacks do not represent anything—they are something; that's the distinction. They are debt-payers, not the shadows of something passed. Mr. Quinby should be in the mind of there is no such thing as a "representative value," any more than there could be a "representative headache." In plain, idiomatic English, a thing either has value or it has not value; but it cannot represent the value of some other thing. This must not be construed to mean, however, that the value is within the thing—"intrinsic," as the gold-bugs say and the socialists mean. Value is the estimation placed upon valuable things, the supply of which "limited"—that is smaller than the demand for all known wants. Its seat is in the human mind and brain. It doesn't need a "base." It is the power of a good to procure some other good. But by the peculiar idioms of the language we say "a thing HAS value," when in reality we mean that "we value it," or place an estimation upon it. The "stored-up" or "crystallized social labor" idea of value is one that causes endless confusion of thought. Professor Ely in one of his earlier works speaks of a Roman coin bringing value down to our present day—a sort of warehouse containing stored-up labor. Now, a warehouse that, being filled with something, permits that something to increase or decrease without the necessity of unlocking it, is a rather insecure repository. The fact that gold coins are of a durable thing in Roman times, and later, and even now; but if its present value is the stored-up labor of some Roman slave, how does it happen that the value has fluctuated widely since the day the coin was minted? The materials in that coin and the coin itself are the production of man, the result of labor. The value is quite another thing—as the verses go by it must of necessity vary as its quantity and the desires and wants of succeeding generations vary.—Ed. Ind.)

Ignorance and Fear

Editor Independent: I have received sample copies of your paper, for which I am very thankful. I like it all O. K. and wish there were ten thousand more such papers published. But those that are most in sympathy with your teaching are not the people that are teaching in the dark—ignorant of what actually is going on.

Sid Foree, in your paper of March 6, on first page, expresses my opinion to a large extent. I don't believe we will ever get relief through any new party, for before it would get full control of the government, there would be thieves enough steal into it to thwart the will of the people. Reform the two old parties. Deal gently with the people. Appeal to their reason and common sense. Urge upon them the necessity of turning their backs upon blind partisanship. The people of one party are just as honest as of another. Politicians appeal to the prejudices of the people to sustain them and they generally succeed. If the two old parties had traded platforms in the two last campaigns the result would have been the same. Hence, those that claim Bryanism has been repudiated simply don't know what they are talking about—or else lie.

I was bred and born a republican, but think it a disgrace to follow the course of the present leaders of the party. Success to The Independent.

Poster, Mo. ED. BOWMAN.

The Independent cannot fully agree with Mr. Bowman. Bryan was defeated because every trust and great corporation used every possible means to accomplish his defeat—coercion, intimidation, deception, corruption wherever possible. In 1900 the cry of "let well enough alone" had telling effect. The people all over the United States knew what the bankers had done in 1893 to bring on a panic, and knew that they could do again and many thousand who are in hearty sympathy with Bryanism voted for McKinley because they feared the power of the bankers and trusts to bring on another panic. Doubtless these may be charged with cowardice, but when a wife and little children depend upon one's exertions for daily bread, even a short period of panic is something to dread. McKinley would have been elected on the Chicago or Kansas City platform, unless the bankers and trusts were given assurances that the platform was simply to get in on. But with a candidate like Bryan, every man who knew him knew that his election meant a carrying out of the principles in the platform. His defeat cannot be construed as a repudiation of Bryanism; it is a sad commentary upon the ignorance of some voters and the cowardice of others.—Ed. Ind.)

Desertion from the regular army is increasing at such a rate that it is alarming. Four men escaped from Ft. Sheridan last week and several other desertions were reported from other stations. It will be pretty hard to maintain a large standing army in a republic like this. In the old European nations where a large part of the population is in constant distress, the army is a shelter for thousands, who are willing to become slaves to arbitrary authority for the scant living that it gives them.

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LIFE NOT WORTH LIVING

Horrible Condition of the Peoples of Europe—Unrest Everywhere and a War Needed to Attract Attention

The unrest and discontent of the people of Europe are becoming apparent. Spain is dealing with riots and a revolution is among the possibilities. The socialists are giving Germany no small amount of alarm. The racial feeling between Hungary and Austria threatens the existence of that empire. The people of the Balkan states are restive. Disturbances in Ireland are feared by the British government. Russia is on the verge of a revolution. If the year closes without serious troubles to one or more of the governments of Europe they may consider themselves fortunate. The truth is that among the common people of Europe life is scarcely worth living. The burdensome taxes for the maintenance of the vast military and naval establishments and of other institutions incidental to their social and civic systems are grinding the people to the earth. The limit of human endurance is nearly reached and hence the evidences of popular discontent. Perhaps the most threatening of all the situations is in Russia. The czar is a well-meaning man, and is credited with a desire to initiate many reforms and grant a large measure of freedom to the people. But he is surrounded by an autocracy of nobles that thwarts every effort at change, nor will there be any change in Russia until the autocracy is broken. It may take a revolution to do it, and this will come in time. An unlimited despotism, such as Russia is, cannot last always. The people of the twentieth century have a better idea of personal liberty and civic rights than they had a century or two ago. When the time comes for them to strike the world may witness a second French revolution in Russia.

An old device of autocratic governments to still unrest at home is to start a war abroad. Possibly a war in Eastern Asia might suit the purposes of Russia's government.—Denver News.

"INEVITABILITY"

Mr. Green Agrees With Mr. Wilshire on the Inevitability of Socialism

Some two or three weeks ago The Independent received a letter from Mr. W. C. Green, Orlando, Fla., touching some editorial statements in our issue of February 20. The article, being nearly three columns long, was crowded out for lack of space at the time, and since then Mr. Wilshire has covered part of the points suggested by Mr. Green; hence, only a part of Mr. Green's article will be used at this time. Among other things, Mr. Green says:

"When Karl Marx over fifty years ago formulated his theory of the economic basis of history, and afterwards proved with scientific detail and unanswerable logic that the laborer is entitled to the ownership of ALL that he produces, socialism was at once placed upon a solid scientific basis. Socialism today is therefore, no man's scheme, but is a philosophy based on a logical interpretation of history and the application of the theory of evolution to human affairs. Karl Marx has furnished the socialist with a key that unlocks and discloses to him the true meaning of past and present political, intellectual and industrial movements.

"No well posted socialist dreams for a moment that he is controlling events, but he sees the inevitable outcome of them; and while he cannot control them or bring them about, he can be instrumental in helping the great crisis he sees approaching to be brought about in an orderly and peaceful manner by informing others of the way and wherefore the astounding developments now taking place in the industrial world, so that

people and the great transformation certain to take place in the near future may take place in a natural and orderly manner and without violence. His mission is partly one of educating and enlightening the public.

"The cardinal principle enunciated by Karl Marx are: (1) That all history since the institution of private property has been based upon class struggles, and, (2) that the laborer is entitled to the ownership of ALL that he produces. This last makes it very apparent that under our present industrial system, labor is being systematically robbed of a large portion of its earnings, and that consequently our entire industrial system is primarily based on crime. This fact fully accounts for nearly, if not all, of the crimes and miseries with which society is afflicted. Socialists do not blame individuals for this state of things nor for participating in this universal crime of which society is guilty, simply because they know that as individuals they are helpless to do otherwise under present conditions. They also have the utmost faith in mankind and do not believe that the great majority would desire to continue a criminal system if they knew that it was criminal. They see at once that it is not because people are bad in general, but that they are ignorant and blind and so do not realize the enormity of our social crime.

I note that you say that socialists propose the public ownership of all property. This is an error. They propose only the collective ownership of all those things the people have to use in common. They are not in the least concerned about private property and do not propose to disturb it. They do not care how much private property anyone may own when socialism is fully inaugurated. What they do propose is to take away the power which the owner of private property now has of compelling and enslaving others through the medium of his property. Remove this feature and there can be no objection to the private ownership of any amount of property. Socialism will do this by making every person who is willing to do his share of the work society requires to be done economically independent of every other man. It will give him and his family a certain gratification every reasonable desire, and when this is done, the owner of private property, however great the amount of his property may be, will not be able to impose upon or oppress him."

(Mr. Green's interpretation of the phrase, "the collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution," is somewhat different from that of most socialists. What are the things which the people have to use in common? This is an important thing to know. Mr. Wilshire, in his so-called debate in this city with W. J. Bryan, answering a question, admitted that a man would be permitted to "own and operate his shirt studs and collar buttons, provided they are good ones," but did not believe that the laborer might always want "all that he produces." However much he might be entitled to it, Mr. Wilshire did not believe the scavenger cares particularly about claiming the product of his toil.

When all the means of production are collective property, it necessarily follows that all products must be collective property until they are distributed. That distribution must depend upon the will of a majority of the people primarily, but the actual work must be done through the instrumentality of government, and it must be done either according to deserts or necessities. In either event, distribution will be attended with great difficulties, where the whole burden rests upon the shoulders of a few guided by statutory law, instead of, as now, depending upon the individual self-interest of millions of people. Even the task of keeping a proper amount of supplies on hand for an army of 40,000,000 is a herculean task and is always imperfectly done, notwithstanding army discipline is more rigid than discipline of a whole people. But when we think of the central government planning to distribute supplies for 70,000,000 people, the hopelessness of the task seems apparent.—Ed. Ind.)

MORE TAXES ON THE POOR

Most Goes up From the Labor Organization All Over the United States Against the Oleomargarine Bill

The workmen are making a great cry against the oleomargarine bill that has just passed both branches of congress. They say the bill when approved by the president, will add 10 cents per pound to this necessary article of diet. For the manufacturer of oleomargarine will be required to pay the government 10 cents per pound upon every pound manufactured. The consumer must add that sum to the price he has heretofore paid for the article before he can place it upon his table.

The senators were flooded with petitions both by mail and telegraph from labor unions and labor leaders all over the country urging them for the sake of the wage earners to vote against the measure that would add that sum to their cost of living, while it gave them no more desirable article.

They say that there is not an ingredient of oleomargarine that isn't the product of the farm. The fat of the steer, lard, cottonseed oil and a large percentage of pure buttermilk and cream are the constituent elements of oleomargarine. Salt and coloring are added to these to make the marketable article. The bill is intended to destroy a healthful and nutritious food article made from a number of farm products for the alleged benefit of a single farm product. In accomplishing this only the butter trust, not the butter maker, will be benefited, while the grower of live stock, including the cow, the cotton planter and millions of the poor, and the middle classes will be most seriously damaged. Either the oleomargarine industry will be completely destroyed or the consumer of oleomargarine will have to pay from 10 to 12 cents more per pound for it. If the farmer who milks the cows and sells the cream to dairies were to receive

summer of butter must pay more for his butter, but the trust will be the only one to reap the benefit. And this destruction of an honest industry is to occur through the prostitution of the taxing power of congress. Congress has authority to levy taxes, but only for revenue. Pretending to exercise this power, they have used it to destroy one industry to increase the wealth of the promoters of another. The best constitutional lawyers of the senate denounced the measure as the most inexcusable and pernicious of class legislation, and as wholly subversive of sound constitutional principles.

The loudest outcry comes from the mining camps of Colorado. The miners declare that it will raise the price of board, for butter is not used there, because it is impossible to transport it to the camps and keep it in condition to eat, while oleomargarine does not become rancid. The miners say that they favor a law that will force the manufacturers to sell the article for what it is and that the plea that such a law could not be enforced was simply a trick of the trust to get the law passed.

He Voted For That "Farm Furrows" says: "I picked up a paper recently and the first item I read was this: 'The man who wintered his farm tools in the fence corner is in town renewing his notes. If that is so it is a bad state of affairs. A man has as good a right to winter his bank notes in the fence corner as he has his implements. He should put the former in the bank and the latter in a shed.'

"This is doubtless the same man who whooped 'er up for the republican ticket, for a protective tariff and sound money and national bank notes and imperialism and all that. The country would go to the dogs without a protective tariff which makes lumber so dear that he can't afford a shed for his farm tools and is obliged to leave them in the fence corner over winter. He wanted money so sound and dear that he is compelled to borrow at the bank to pay for the implements he leaves out in the rain and snow. He voted for these things—kick him as hard as you like. He's simply a mule head, anyway.

Prompt Payments

At this season of the year every farmer should investigate the different hail insurance companies before insuring his crops even though the agent be his neighbor. In looking up the reports of all the companies doing business in this state we find that the United Mutual Hail Insurance association of Lincoln have demonstrated their ability to meet heavy losses, having paid to farmers who lost their crops in the past three years \$119,605. In comparing these figures with the amounts paid by other companies we find that they have paid \$50,000 more than all other companies combined. They have a large membership and scores of farmers in every district can testify to the prompt and satisfactory adjustment of losses. Their assessment for the payment of losses was lower last year than was ever made by any hail company in the state and if all farmers in the eastern district of Nebraska would join this association all would have good protection against the ravages of a hail storm without burdening anyone.

New York

The following poem, written by Marion Couthous Smith and published in the eastern papers, has suggested to Bishop Potter the idea that each city have a local song or hymn for the purpose of creating local pride and civic enthusiasm.

The air and the wave unfold her,
River and sky and sea;
Cradled in light they hold her,
Circled in mystery.

With a tender touch they drape her,
At morning and eventide,
In a film of jeweled vapor
Fit for a royal bride.

The stars of the night have crowned her,
In pageant full o'erhead;
And far, to the verge around her,
Her zone of light is spread.

The subject seas have brought her
Down at their tides control;
And the joy of the breathing water
Quickens her inmost soul.

Where is her peer in splendor?
Whom shall she own as lord?
Riches that earth can render
Down at her feet is poured.

Yet can no glories win her
To deep and pure repose,
For the strong, proud heart within her
Aches with a thousand woes.

She who was made to cherish
Toiler and waif and slave,
Weeps that her children perish,
Spoiled of the hope she gave.

Mourns for her freedom's dower,
Lost in the strife for gold,
While the sword of her sovereign
power
Drops from her listless hand.

Yet, as the tides sweep round her,
Her mighty pulses thrill,
And the chains that long have bound her
Shake with her wakening will.

Slowly the links are broken;
Shall not she bear at last
Only the solemn totem past?
Of pain and thralldom past?

The air and the wave unfold her,
River and sky and sea;
Lo! in a dream behold her,
Crowned as she yet may be!

Still is she freedom's daughter,
Noble in joy or dole;
And the life of the great glad water
Quickens her inmost soul.

Hot Stuff

Editors of the Independent: If you will examine your books you will find my name as a yearly sub.; bought one of your postals of a man in Finksburg, Md. Your paper is "hot stuff," and I find more truth in it than any daily paper I read. Pity there was not a few more of such as you. This country is going to H—des, with the able assistance of the trusts and their allies in congress. I was formerly a democrat, but now am "any old thing" to knock out the thieves. I can stand Bryan another whack. He's good enough for me. R. MACNEIL, Baltimore, Md.

A Hypocritical Cry

When the labor cost of turning raw materials into articles of use has become so cheapened by the employment of well-fed and well-conditioned working people and the introduction of labor-saving machinery that the manufacturing nations of the old world begin to organize in self-defense against our cheap products, words fall to express adequately the wantonness of the excessive burdens which are maintained under the hypocritical cry of protection for labor—Jacon Schoenhof in January Forum.

FRAM MARYLAND.

You can send me five of the Liberty Building postals and I will do what I can to sell them. I am not exactly a populist, but I am the next thing to it—a Bryan democrat. I believe the principles of the people's party are needed to save the nation from republican misrule as they are one with true democracy. Your paper has been a source of great instruction to me and I like your plain way of talking. I have been sending my copy when through with it to my friends in other states and from what I have heard they have read it with profit and pleasure. In the east, as no doubt you are aware, the demagogic ignorance prevails on most economic subjects and populism and the devil are closely associated in the public mind, due in a great part to the capitalist press. There is more true Americanism in the west than in the east, as I found last summer when I visited Texas, California, Colorado and

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Queens of Our Empire. I mingle not with the poor or the lowly. No, not I. Serenely gathering my trailing garments, I pass by.

I am guided by those grand, ancient monarchs, That lived—ruled in splendors untold. Over fair Egypt, then queen of all nations, And pride of the ancient world.

They come to me in their gold and purple; They come with their Censers and Shrine; They salute me in the hebraic language, As I am of that same old line.

Then I kneel there on a bright velvet cushion, I breathe in the perfume Divine—Crave benedictions of those haughty rulers, And plead for the power of past time.

If they but speak of their Egyptian grandeur, I'm entranced and listen with awe. Soul-lifted, I am filled with adoration, By potent, but unwritten law.

Thus my heart, it is captured—I'm enraptured, For Gold is a power magnate, And Purple is a color truly royal, Worn rightly by highest estate.

I mingle not with the poor or the lowly. No, not I. Serenely gathering my trailing garments, I pass by. FRANCIS LEANDER KING, Worcester, Mass.

The Middle Class

Next Sunday night, April 13, T. H. Tibbles, editor of The Independent will address the Labor Lyceum on "The Destiny of the Middle Class, Socially and Economically." Except during the hot weather, the Labor Lyceum holds regular meetings each Sunday night at 1034 O street. During the past winter many interesting lectures have been delivered at these meetings by local speakers. After each regular address, those present take turns in asking questions and making short talks on the subject under discussion.

Hot Stuff

Editors of the Independent: If you will examine your books you will find my name as a yearly sub.; bought one of your postals of a man in Finksburg, Md. Your paper is "hot stuff," and I find more truth in it than any daily paper I read. Pity there was not a few more of such as you. This country is going to H—des, with the able assistance of the trusts and their allies in congress. I was formerly a democrat, but now am "any old thing" to knock out the thieves. I can stand Bryan another whack. He's good enough for me. R. MACNEIL, Baltimore, Md.

A Hypocritical Cry

When the labor cost of turning raw materials into articles of use has become so cheapened by the employment of well-fed and well-conditioned working people and the introduction of labor-saving machinery that the manufacturing nations of the old world begin to organize in self-defense against our cheap products, words fall to express adequately the wantonness of the excessive burdens which are maintained under the hypocritical cry of protection for labor—Jacon Schoenhof in January Forum.

FRAM MARYLAND.

You can send me five of the Liberty Building postals and I will do what I can to sell them. I am not exactly a populist, but I am the next thing to it—a Bryan democrat. I believe the principles of the people's party are needed to save the nation from republican misrule as they are one with true democracy. Your paper has been a source of great instruction to me and I like your plain way of talking. I have been sending my copy when through with it to my friends in other states and from what I have heard they have read it with profit and pleasure. In the east, as no doubt you are aware, the demagogic ignorance prevails on most economic subjects and populism and the devil are closely associated in the public mind, due in a great part to the capitalist press. There is more true Americanism in the west than in the east, as I found last summer when I visited Texas, California, Colorado and