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T. H. Tibbles, editor-in-chief of The Independent, is pretending to take a three weeks' vacation on his farm in Cuming county. As a matter of fact, he will be "grinding out copy" most of the time. Correspondents who desire their communications to reach him directly should address him at Bancroft, Neb.—The Religious Editor.

The strikes that are taking place all over the country would be more accurately described if they were called "bread riots."

The P Street Idiot, after profound and prolonged cogitation, has come to the following conclusion: "The truth about the 'water cure' is that the Filipinos are surprised at its mildness."

J. Sterling Morton undertook to re-establish the law of primogeniture and entailment in the disposal of his real estate in Nebraska City. He was true to his plutocratic convictions even in death.

If one wants to find "a law-abiding citizen" it would be useless to look among the millionaires and trust magnates. Every one of them are law violators. The law-abiding citizen is found only among the poor and lowly.

In view of the lynching of many Italians in this country and the long time that has always elapsed before that government could ever obtain any satisfaction, the prompt action of the young king in releasing the American officers makes the act all the more gracious.

Down in the eastern states where the millionaires are very numerous, bread riots and strikes are also numerous. Out here in Nebraska where we have no millionaires there are no such disturbances. Millionaires and paupers. The two classes are always found together.

There never was a time when so many strikes and strikes of such immense proportions in one day as there were on Thursday of last week. It seems that the whole wage-working masses in the east had discovered all at once that the result of the last election was an "empty" dinner pail and so they went on a strike.

"Ought a man to be taxed for improving his property and thereby improving the city?"—Pertinent Inquiries in "Justice," Wilmington, Del.

He couldn't escape it even under the single tax. Put a \$2,500 building on a \$2,500 lot and both together are worth more than \$5,000—but it isn't the building that has increased in value.

The officers of the cruiser Chicago, who were fined and imprisoned in Venice for a disturbance on the streets, were pardoned by the king. The officers deny that they were drunk and say the fracas began by the accidental upsetting of a table. They say that a mob charged upon them and that they defended themselves the best that they could.

Captain Clark, whom Roosevelt selected as the naval officer to represent him at the coronation of King Edward, has declined the proffered honor. Captain Clark helped Schley fight the battle of Santiago bay and evidently felt that he would be sadly out of place helping to crown a king, so he put up the plea of poverty and asked to be excused.

Neither in this country nor England have the great fortunes come from land owning. Ten years ago the land owners of Britain were the most distressed of all the business community. There are mighty fortunes in England, but with the exception of three or four, like the Duke of Westminster, none of these fortunes came from landlordism. In this country the landlord fortunes can be counted on the fingers of the hands. But there are over 5,000 millionaires and perhaps two billionaires. With the exception of less than a dozen, they are not large land holders. If the landlords of this country were the millionaires, then it would be less hard to accept the single tax theory as a remedy for all our woes.

ARMY OFFICERS

The cry that the army is being assaulted is a false cry. It is not the army, nor its officers, many of whom have grown old and gray-haired in the service, with long and honorable records of bravery, gallantry and hard service. Hardly one among them has a dollar outside of his salary. They have not been money-grabbers and robbers of the poor, but servants of the whole people. Some of them are men of eminent scientific attainments, inventors in the field of applied science, giving their inventions to the government, which, if they had retained and patented, would have made them eminently wealthy. It is not at them that The Independent would hurl its anathemas. It is the system of imperialism and the orders that they have received from Washington.

Since the war of conquest was first begun by an imperial edict of the president, for the constitution declares that congress shall declare war and make peace, and congress never declared war on the Filipinos, The Independent has not ceased to tell the people what effect such a war would have upon the army and the people of the United States. The acts at which the people are now horrified are the necessary result of the system. They will constantly recur as long as such a war is propagated. No power in all the world in all the past has been able to prevent them and no power in the future will be able to do so. A foreign army bent on conquest, 7,000 miles from home and the restraints of law and civilized life, will degenerate. Nothing that we can do will stop the degeneration. That has been the history of the world. It will continue to be its history in the future. What has happened is just what The Independent predicted would happen. It will continue as long as the imperial policy of the government continues. It is the republican political power at Washington that is responsible for all this and not army officers. At their heads the people should hurl their anathemas and not at the army.

THEIR DAY IN COURT

There used to be a good deal of talk in the magazines and papers about what they called English and American fair play. We don't hear anything about that now. That is one of the things that passed away with the Declaration of Independence. But there are a few senators left who still are imbued with that idea. The country has been flooded for three years with the military side of affairs in the Philippines, but no Filipino has been allowed to be heard—they have no day in court. Now Carmack, Patterson and a few more of the senators are saying that fair play demands that the Filipinos should be heard, that they should have their day in court. They want Aguinaldo, Lopez and one or two of the Filipino generals to be sent for and let them present their side. They also want Major Gardner subpoenaed. But there is no fair play in an imperialist and Lodge and his confederates will have none of it. They are going to try this case and allow but one side to be heard.

RURAL FREE DELIVERY

The effect of mail order houses and rural free delivery upon merchants in country towns is assuming one phase which presents different aspects when viewed from different standpoints. The simple proposition that mail order houses and free delivery are bad because they deprive the local merchant of some sales, is not sound economically. The consumer has some rights to be considered. If he can procure goods that he needs from the mail order houses for less than he can from the local merchant, it is certainly his right to do so. And it is no argument to say that he sends his money out of the state, because the local merchant does that when he buys goods. Or, by a parity of reasoning, it would be pernicious for the farmer to sell his corn to a local consumer, because if he should sell abroad it would bring money into the state.

But there is another feature. Merchants tell The Independent that it is not the sales of mail order houses that seriously affect their trade, but rather the absence of rural customers from the local stores. "It's like this," said a furniture dealer, "I sell a mirror for \$2 which some mail order house might duplicate for less money, so that after paying express the buyer would save a few cents. It isn't the sale of that mirror that hurts me, but the fact that the buyer doesn't come to my store at all. If he had come in to buy a mirror, while there he would doubtless see a rocking chair that would be 'just the thing for gran'ma,' a couch that he'd been wanting for ever so long, an ice-chest that wife had been harping about for a year or two, and so on. It isn't on the things he knows he wants and buys from mail order houses that we lose money; but it's on the things that he doesn't know he wants until he comes into the store that we make a living. And if he doesn't need to come to town after his mail, and buys what he knows he wants from the mail order houses, then we lose a big share of our usual trade that nobody else gets."

Now, the advance of civilization is

marked by the increase of man's wants, and if the permanent effect of rural free delivery should be to curtail the number of articles sold, it would undoubtedly be pernicious. It would destroy a great market for goods of many kinds, and be detrimental to the consumers as well. The chief end of man is not to accumulate and hoard money, but to accumulate and enjoy and consume goods (from an economic standpoint, of course) and anything which tends to decrease the number of wants without supplying them, is a step backward. But from a more restricted point of view, this curtailment may temporarily be a good thing. It may put an end to the senseless buying on credit of things not really needed, simply because they are cheap, or seem to be. And in the long run, after conditions become settled under the readjustment of affairs, it may be that the retail buyer can order from a catalogue just as skillfully as the average merchant does now.

So far the results of free delivery seem to be beneficial. There is less liquor drunk, more letters written, more papers read, less time lost, more production accomplished. It is difficult to see how increased facilities for transmission of intelligence and the distribution of goods can be harmful on the whole. Changes of any kind always hurt somebody, but after the readjustment comes the real benefits can be known. The introduction of steam railroads ruined stage-coaching and canal transportation and overland freighting; but nobody is clamoring to go back to these primitive means.

QUEER DEMOCRATS

There are some mighty queer democrats down in Douglas county. Many of them, of course, are the "salt of the earth" and are democrats because they believe in democratic principles; but every now and then one of them sets his jaw to wagging in a manner that would indicate that he is training with the wrong crowd.

At a recent meeting of the Jacksonian club Will H. Herdman championed the cause of the beef trust—which was certainly bad practice for a professed democrat; but he went further, and championed the Fowler currency bill. Herdman is one of a number of Jacksonians who have been very energetic lately in having the club expel or suspend certain South Omaha members who would not support the democratic nominee for mayor of South Omaha. According to his lights the true test of democracy is in voting the ticket—yellow dog or what not; but belief in party principles doesn't count; in fact, a democrat of the Herdman stripe can hold with the republicans on every vital point, talk pompously about being "a democrat—a Jacksonian democrat"—and probably secretly vote the republican ticket. If The Independent mistakes not this particular Jacksonian is now holding a federal job. Is it possible that colors his views about the meat trust and the Fowler bill?

"The greatest amount of feathers with the least squawking" is the only excuse ever attempted in behalf of indirect taxes—"crooked taxation," as Thomas G. Shearman terms it. But there is no justification for the system. The taxpayer does not contribute in proportion to the benefits received or according to his ability to contribute. He pays according to what he consumes. As Mr. De Hart has well shown, the respective positions of the republican party and the democratic party on the tariff question amount simply to another case of tweedledum and tweedledee, with the advantage, if any, in favor of tweedledum. With both great parties favoring crooked taxation, it cannot be much advantage whether the crook bends one way or the other. And, as Mr. De Hart contends, the fight from now on must be between an equitable income tax on the one hand and crooked taxation on the other. The day has passed when much enthusiasm can be aroused over a protective tariff with incidental revenue or a revenue tariff with incidental protection. The real issue is between crooked taxation and just taxation.

General MacArthur, in defending his position that the army was in the Philippines to establish republican institutions, acknowledged under the cross-examination of Mr. Culbertson that the rights of free speech, to bear arms and trial by jury could not be granted to the Filipinos. The amount of republican institutions left after these things were eliminated would not have troubled old King George III. All such talk as that of General MacArthur is pure hypocrisy.

Secretary Root is the first cabinet officer who was ever proved to be a common liar by the official documents in his own office. He reprimanded Miles for saying that war in the Philippines had been prosecuted with "marked severity," and declared that the Filipinos had been treated with great consideration. The documents that the senate forced from him show that when he reprimanded Miles and made the statement he was lying and knew that he was lying.

RETRIBUTION

The smallpox is spread all over the United States and there are thousands of new cases everywhere. The physicians all declare that it is becoming more virulent. This is part of the retribution inflicted upon this country for its wars of conquest in the orient. But it is only part. There are over 1,000 known cases of leprosy, how many unknown can only be guessed at. Smallpox has sometimes been called a filth disease, but it attacks with impartiality people of the most cleanly habits, living in houses with all the modern sanitary improvements and those who live in the slums. There are a lot of doctors in this country who ought to be hung to the first tree or lamp post to which they could be dragged. There are not many of that kind, but they have been encouraging the people not to rely on vaccination. Recently there was a family living in a modern house with all sanitary improvements that could be devised, neat as a pin from top to bottom, where all had been vaccinated except one young lady who had refused when the rest were vaccinated. The other day she broke out with smallpox. No one knows where the disease came from. None of the others had it, but the house was placarded and quarantined to the great annoyance and cost of every inmate.

Chicago and every city in the west is saturated with smallpox. But not a member of the Chicago police has had smallpox for years, although their occupation brings them in contact with it all the time. They are all vaccinated. Physicians look forward with dread to next winter, as they expect the disease to take on a most virulent form by that time. We should have the German system in this country and compel every person to be vaccinated. There is no smallpox in Germany.

THE HORROR OF IT

It appears that the "water cure" was not an invention of the Maccabees. It was brought to the Philippines by the Spanish and was one of the tortures used by the Inquisition. The records which have come down to us from the middle ages contain many accounts of the application of this torture. It was applied to the Marquis de Brinvilliers in France to force a confession from her in July, 1676, and a full description of all the horrible details lie before us. After giving an account of the effect of the first ten pints of water the account proceeds as follows:

The torture by the injection of water was renewed, whereupon she cried several times in great agony, beseeching the mercy of heaven. Again admonished to confess, she said they might kill her, but she would not lay the guilt of perjury upon her soul. The torture was repeated; she was again convulsed, but was silent. . . . The torture was thrice repeated, but she spoke not, upon the third time she answered only with a deep groan and an ejaculation to heaven. Upon which she was unbound, removed from the rack and placed before the fire in the customary manner.

That is the sort of work that officers of the United States army have been engaged in in the Philippines. The miserable creatures who edit the republican dailies are defending and apologizing for such work as that! The same vengeance that was visited upon Spain and France will be visited upon these states unless a reversal of the course of government is speedily accomplished. It is as certain to come as there is a God in heaven. There is no escape from the penalties for violation of the eternal laws of justice which He has established.

Does Justice Brown now look upon his work with satisfaction? No such things were reported from the Philippines until after the protection of the constitution was removed from the islands by the supreme court. Cruel and unusual punishments are forbidden by the constitution, but the brown men of the far east cannot appeal to it. They have been placed by Justice Brown beyond its protection. Oh, the horror of it all!

The constitution must be re-established. Get out and work as you never worked before. If you do not it will not be many years until you will find yourself in the same situation as the Filipinos now are.

THE BANKING PIRATES

Perhaps a hundred times in the last five years the editor of The Independent has declared that the national banks had practically no reserves at all and that they were doing business in direct violation of law. The articles by Hon. Flavius J. Van Vorhis which have been printed from time to time in these columns have given the figures from the official reports of the comptroller of the currency to prove that the assertion was true. Particular attention is called to the article from his pen in this issue.

The comptroller is of course a creature of the secretary of the treasury, and the secretary is a creature of the president, so these financial pirates are permitted to constantly violate the law and thereby create a condition that threatens all the foundations of business in the whole United States, by the permission of President Roosevelt. The law is bad enough, but as bad as it is and as fav-

orably to the banking interests as it is, the bankers pay no more attention to it than if it were, not on the statute books at all.

The law in the first place was drawn by bankers and for bankers. Since that time they have grown more bold and piratical and repudiate and violate the very law that they themselves caused to be enacted. What meat do these Caesars feed upon that they have grown so great? The humble toilers of the land have to obey the law. If they are caught in any violations of it they find no mercy in the courts. But trust magnates and national bankers openly violate the law and trample it beneath their feet. There may come a time when these robbers will need the protection of the law and need it bad. What will be the reply of an enraged people to their appeal?

WHERE TO SEEK THEM

"Why not seek our taxes (public revenue) where the speculator gathers his riches—namely from land values?"—Pertinent Inquiries in "Justice," Wilmington, Del.

Why not seek them, then, from public franchises—that it where the speculator gathers his riches. The value of a railroad does not come from its right-of-way. It comes from its right to "charge all the traffic will bear." The land is necessary, of course, but the value of a railroad must be ascertained by its earnings—not the rental value of its right of way. Even pressure of population and increased business can be followed by a decline in the value of a railroad—if the management be wasteful, thus reducing the net income.

But the value of a farm is estimated by reference to others near it and what it would produce in net income under reasonable management. A kid-glove agriculturist might lose all kinds of money attempting fancy farming on a quarter section, but the value of his farm would increase rather than decrease. Not so with a railroad.

The two respond to opposing economic laws and no scheme of land values can ever reconcile the differences. The law of decreasing returns holds good in agriculture; and increasing returns in railroading. That is to say, within reasonable limits, a doubling of expense will not double the returns from agriculture. But in railroading, within reasonable limits, the business can be doubled without doubling the expenses.

IT MAKES US LAUGH

The dailies have had a good deal to say during the last few days about maintaining republican principles. Here's one who would like to know what those principles are. It makes the ordinary man laugh to read the last republican platform in connection with the events of the last two years. Great trusts have come into being under the fostering care of the republican party during that time and others have extended their operations without let or hindrance. But the following is what the republican platform says:

We condemn all conspiracies and combinations intended to restrict business, to create monopolies, to limit production or to control prices, and favor such legislation as will effectually restrain and prevent all such abuses, protect and promote competition, and secure the rights of producers, laborers and all who are engaged in industry and commerce.

The adoption of that plank was the vilest hypocrisy. The men who drafted it and the convention that adopted it never intended that it should be of any use except to catch mule heads. Where is the promised legislation "to restrain such abuses"? The congress elected under that platform has been in session for months and months and is now about to expire, but not a republican has offered a bill to restrain the trusts. The convention that adopted it was composed of trust magnates and corporation managers, and every man of common sense knew that the declaration was a fraud and a farce.

The words of the plank are very sweet and catching, but still when we reflect upon what the republicans have done since then in regard to trusts, it makes us laugh to read it.

The two greatest reform editors of the United States, Bryan of The Commoner and Tibbles of The Independent, are now doing the Cincinnati act. There are hundreds of editors in the United States who would be benefited by living even a few months on the farm. With some mud on their boots, hayseed in their hair, and good fresh air in their lungs, their brains might resume the normal state and their thinking apparatus get to working better.

What The Independent has been saying for more than a year, the eastern dailies are just finding out. One of them remarked last week: "The enterprise of the country has been overinflated and credit overextended, and a check must be applied if serious trouble is to be avoided." That is what The Independent has been saying for months as all its readers know. Those who have followed its advice will be safe in their cyclone cells when the tornado comes.



Look Out for things That are Cut in Two.

Some merchants are always advertising cut-in-two-prices, but the facts are that genuine cut-in-two-prices are as few as cut-in-two-men.

We make no such claims about our prices, but simply stand on the proposition that we can save you from \$2 to \$5 a suit as compared with your home prices. Furthermore we will be glad to send you samples of the cloth in different grades of Suits for Men and Boys and then leave the matter to your own judgment. Our mail order business was never so large as now, which inclines us to think that the people must be satisfied. We will be pleased to send you our sample book and full particulars if you will send us your address on a postal card.

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ENUNCIATION AND APPLICATION

There seems to be a growing divergence between the enunciation of principles and the application of them—between stating a rule as fundamental and then seeking some hair-splitting excuse for claiming this thing and that as exceptions. In the political and economic world no law could be framed which would be beneficial—at least, directly so—to every individual. In a negative way, then, the law which produces the least suffering to the smallest number, is the best law. Or, stated affirmatively, the rule should be: "The greatest good to the greatest number." By implication this is the basis of the idea that the majority should rule, because the presumption is that the majority will know what is best for it, and rule accordingly.

A political party to succeed and to be a permanent power for good, ought to adopt certain, well-defined principles; and when given power should apply those principles without regard to the fact that possibly some of its members might be injured by the application. But the tendency is always strong for individuals to throw party principles to the winds and adopt the motto, "Everybody for himself and the devil take the hindmost," especially when the application of party principles might appear to be detrimental to the interests of the particular individuals.

The republican party is today the greatest object lesson of this tendency to announce principles with a blare of trumpets and then to ignore them in substantially every particular when it comes to the application. Its so-called protective tariff idea can scarcely be called a principle, for no one knows exactly what it includes; and it is notorious that our tariff laws are simply the result of log-rolling and sectional struggles—"everybody for himself," etc., and "when you're gittin', git plenty," or "get all you can and keep all you get." The idea of the greatest good to the greatest number does not enter into the application of the protective tariff—that is never thought of except in campaigns.

But the republican party is not alone in this tendency to preach one thing and practice another when the pinch comes. Populists and democrats in congress right along forget the principles they preached from the stump and advocate something opposed to those principles at times, because they believe their constituents, or some of them, might suffer if the true rule were invoked. For example, Congressman Stark last winter sent out a letter in which he made a savage attack on the parcels post bill, not so much because some republican devilry was lurking behind it, as because a parcels post would enable the farmers of his district to buy goods from Sigel, Cooper & Co., or Montgomery, Ward & Co., at a less price than they would have to pay the local merchant. Here was a measure essentially populist in principle, opposed by a populist. And he was not alone in the opposition. A number of the Fourth district populist papers took it up and combated the bill, because it was a parcels post measure and not because it might have some bad features. During the winter The Independent has observed that the populists and democrats at Washington were for a time at sea regarding the Cuban bill. Each one, instead of saying, "My vote shall be in accord with democratic or populist principles," was on the anxious seat, between the devil and the deep blue sea, not knowing which way to turn for fear of incurring the displeasure of a handful of beet growers in his respective state. Since the meat trust agitation began and suggestions were made to take the tariff off

gives what purports to be an interview with Congressman Shallenberger in which he skillfully avoids saying anything in particular, but leaves the impression that he would oppose it because it might injure certain interests in his district. And prominent populists in Nebraska have been heard to urge that we drop agitation of the meat trust question because "farmers are getting high prices for their cattle" and might vote the republican ticket if we pushed it too far.

It is high time we get back to first principles and stand by them. If a certain thing is right when applied to the other fellow, it ought to be right when applied to us. And if we intend to desert our professed principles the moment they are to be applied to us, better drop the whole thing and join the republican party, which knows no principle but selfishness; whose leaders believe in appealing to the belly instead of to the head.

A parcels post would undoubtedly injure some merchants in the smaller towns; but it would be of great benefit to a hundred times more people. Absolute free trade in sugar might hurt the beet sugar factories—although that is open to doubt—but every cent reduction in the price of sugar would mean a saving of about \$2 to \$3 a year to each family. Taking the tariff off meats would doubtless do no good, but leaving it on doesn't.

THE NEW LAWMAKERS

The New York clearing house has openly declared itself the lawmaker in regard to banks and reserves. The open violation of the law that congress made has been known to the managers for a long time, in fact every member of the New York clearing house is a criminal, but the thing has gone so far that the managers begin to fear that the cob house will fall down, so the authorities got together the other day and passed the following resolution:

Every institution which may hereafter be permitted to clear through a member of this association shall be required to keep in its vaults such percentage of cash reserve to its deposits as the clearing house committee may determine.

They do not say that the cash reserves shall be what the law requires, but such as they, the lawmakers, shall determine. After all, this is perhaps the best way. The people might as well be informed that the idea that we have a lawmaking body in congress that can pass laws to govern banks is a fiction. The men who have for years made the laws on that subject are the members of the clearing house governing committee.

THE BOYS OF '76

One of the pictures that used to be in thousands of American homes was of an old gray-haired hero of the revolution, charging up a hill. By his side was one boy with a musket and another little fellow beating a drum. How a look at that picture used to fire our hearts when we were boys. The boy with the musket was wounded and the blood showed in the picture, but he was charging on, while the little fellow with the drum, too small to carry a musket, cheered them by beating on it with all his might. That represented America 126 years ago. Now it is represented by General Smith who orders that all the boys in a whole province above ten years of age shall be shot, because they, like the boys of '76, are brave enough to fight for liberty and independence. The repudiation of the Declaration of Independence and the overthrow of the constitution has wrought mighty changes, the full significance of which is not yet understood.