

CAMPAIGN APPROACHING

Lively Interest in all Parts of the State in the Coming Elections Notwithstanding the Busy Season

LIBERTY SUBSCRIPTIONS INCREASING

Good Rains and Excellent Crop Prospects in all Parts of the State Make the Work Easier

During the week the most encouraging letters have been received commending the effort to construct Liberty Building and many orders for blocks of five have been received.

bountifully rewarded by an excellent crop. Prospects in the state as a whole were seldom more encouraging than at present.

On account of the absence of the modern bishops makes one look back with more admiration than ever before upon the pioneers of that church.

News of the Week

Roosevelt has accepted the statue of Frederick the Great presented to the people of the United States by the German Emperor and it will be set up in one of the public squares of Washington.

This congress will appropriate \$100,000,000 for rivers and harbors and public buildings alone. This \$100,000,000 is just for a few side trimmings for a government run by the republicans.

Mr. Asquith, the English statesman, said in a speech at a recent press banquet, that nearly every member of the present British cabinet, from the premier down, had worked for the press at one time or another.

The government of Justice Brown's "appurtenant possessions" still occupies the time of the senate to the exclusion of matters of the most weighty importance to all who live in the states to which the possessions are "appurtenant."

The Springfield Republican says that our coronation ambassador to King Edward's court, Whitelaw Reid, represents 1,760,000 part of the American people.

Congressman Steel of the Eleventh Indiana district, who was defeated after 1,000 ballots in the republican convention, has been in congress 16 years.

Lord Pauncefote, British ambassador to Washington after a long illness, died May 24th. He has held the position since 1899.

It takes a bishop when once he has abandoned the teachings of the peaceful prophet of Nazareth and has persuaded himself that to propagate the gospel is by Krag-Jorgensen rifles and reconcentro camps, to press things to a climax.

The hearts of the men of all races and all climes are lighter on account of the realization of the hopes of the Cubans which were consummated during the week.

Reports are persistently circulated in Washington that the leadership of the republican party is determined to down Teddy. At the bottom of it seems to be the trusts and railroad magnates.

Reports coming from Kansas are to the effect that the democrats down there, that is, the rank and file, are made of about the same sort of stuff as the populists.

Hardy's Column.

We took a ride into the country among the wheat and cornfields. We never saw a better prospect for a good crop of wheat. The heads are of good length and the straw long enough.

The dry weather in April did not injure the wheat in Nebraska, as is claimed. Connected with the wind it may have damaged small patches but it benefitted other pieces twice as much.

It appears that the Nicaragua canal route is in the earthquake and volcanic line and that within a short time there have been convulsions that would have blocked the canal if it had been built.

True to republican principles, the Lancaster convention, so excited that it would not do to let all the members of the party vote, in caucus direct for the men they wanted nominated for office.

The debate in congress on the admission into the union of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma as states shows that the feeling in the east towards the west is about the same as it was in the south towards the north.

Is it not right to do right whether we have promised it or not? Are we not under the same obligations to deal with our fellowmen whether we have promised it or not?

Ex-Senator Allen thinks we ought not to criticize our own party leaders. That means, we ought to swallow, without chewing, everything they say.

Mr. Hardy in his column this week falls into the same error regarding Senator Allen's position as many other newspaper men and politicians do. Senator Allen does not take the stand that ought not to criticize our own party leaders.

DUMDUM BULLETS

Chief Crozier Admits That Certain 30-40 Bullets are Explosive-Crawfishing Republicans

The debate on the Philippines in the senate has been proceeding in rather a calmer tone during the past few days but this is because the administration forces have at last discovered the absurdity of their position and have drawn in their horns.

matter became serious enough that the war department took a hand and forwarded as official denial that dum dum or explosive bullets has ever been furnished to our army the Philippines.

Yet Chief Crozier of the ordinance department admitted that certain 30-40 bullets were explosive in character and had about the same effect as the dum dum bullet, although not specifically known by that title.

The administration press has grown so alarmed over the public indignation following the revelation of our policy in the Philippines that the leading eastern papers, openly expressing the hope that Roosevelt will enunciate a policy promising that the Philippines shall follow in the footsteps of Cuba and become self governing.

By their own stupidity the republicans have become the defamers of the army. First they denied that any cruelties had been perpetrated and when forced to admit that such of the war as they gloried in and defended such men as "Hell Roaring Jake Smith" and thus did their best to fasten upon the military body the odium for a policy conceived by certain people in the war department.

Senator Hoar's speech on the Philippine situation was one of the finest pieces of oratory heard in the senate in many a day. It was calm and temperate but it showed how this nation has fallen from its lofty ideals of liberty.

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KANSAS DEMOCRATS

Nominate Part of a Ticket and Hold Out Olive Branch to Populists—David Overmyer Disgruntled—A Grand Platform

The democrats of Kansas evidently took wiser counsel and have evinced a desire to co-operate with the populists. It was thought that the democratic convention, which met in Wichita the 22nd, would adjourn without any formal action to meet in Topeka June 24, the date of the populist state convention.

A small contingent in the democratic convention was affected by the "reorganizers" virus. David Overmyer, who was prominently mentioned as candidate for governor, pouted and withdrew from the race because his motion was voted down.

Resolved, That the rules and order of business of this convention, in and so far as they provide for the nomination of a full state ticket and the appointment of a full state committee, and that this convention now proceed to the nomination of such officers as, in the judgment of this convention, will be the fair and equitable proportion of the offices to which the democratic party shall be entitled at the ensuing election.

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vacancies so left by this convention, and assure the populists that the committee under the instruction of the democratic convention will test the validity of the so-called anti-fusion law.

Overmyer was opposed to this, but it carried by a vote of 593 to 126. Then David withdrew from the race. "I cannot afford to make the sacrifice," he said to the correspondent of the Kansas City Star.

The next day the convention nominated the following candidates: W. H. Craddock, mayor of Kansas City, Kan., for governor; James McCreary, Fort Scott, and J. C. Cannon, Mox City, for supreme justices.

The platform "reaffirms the platform of the national democratic convention" at Kansas City in 1900, and the state platform of that year; denounces trusts and arraigns the republican party for its protective policy.

"We stand for the ownership and operation of all public service functions by and in the interest of all the people. Wherever municipal corporations inaugurate efforts to own and operate their own water or light plants or transportation facilities, we commend the voters of our party the support of such measures as being in line with the principles of democracy, and we will welcome the day when the entire interstate transportation system of our country can be acquired and operated by the people, thus doing away with these gigantic monopolies in private hands which discriminate nastily between trade centers and constitute the real basis for the greatest trusts ever organized.

"In the interest of the people we plead for a state administration and for a legislature free from railroad domination. The proposed republican tax law, which will be adopted if the next legislature is republican, the valuation of all railroad property in the hands of a subservient state administration. Attention is called to the fact, in this connection, that, in democratic Missouri, the Burlington road pays taxes on a valuation of \$15,226 per mile; while in republican Kansas the same road pays taxes on a valuation of \$7,000 per mile; the Missouri Pacific, \$19,011 in Missouri, \$7,492 in Kansas; the Rock Island, \$16,724 in Missouri, \$7,060 in Kansas; and the Santa Fe, \$17,057 in Missouri and \$6,749 in Kansas; and that the general valuation of railroad property in Missouri, for the purpose of taxation, is 80 per cent higher than the same property is valued in Kansas."

Post Check Currency

When The Independent first called attention to this admirable plan for transmitting small sums, it took occasion to say that it doubted whether the bankers would allow the measure to become a law.

surmises; that the bankers are tired of drawing drafts for small sums, etc., etc. But the board of experts appointed by the postmaster general and the secretary of the treasury to consider the post-check currency plan for the transmission of small sums of money safely through the mail, for which bills are pending in congress, reached the conclusion that the plan would be inconvenient and troublesome.

The board will recommend the adoption of a modified form of the Canadian money order system, which furnishes engraved notes for different small sums, beginning at 15 cents and running up as high as \$2.50. It will be proposed that the United States fractional notes run no higher than \$2 and that for each note, whatever its size up to one dollar, one cent be charged, as against two or three cents at the outside almost any sum can be procured by combination, up to the point where the money order proper would come into play.

The Independent isn't mistaken very often in anticipation what bankers will do. The Post Check currency would circulate as money and save a trip to the postoffice in sending small sums by mail; but the proposed substitute will be but little better.

Other Blindness Editor Rosewater of the Omaha Bee in an editorial headed "Partisan Color Blindness," objects because The Independent congratulated him as W. Simeral for the able manner in which they represented the railroad tax question to the state board.

Ignoring the question of franchises, The Independent still believes that railroad property is, on the average, assessed at high proportionately as other property. Isolated examples can be cited in proof of an opposite view, but the true test is to take a general view of the matter. In 1899, farm lands to the amount of 31,000,000 acres were returned by the assessors at nearly \$10,000,000 less valuation than were 28,000,000 acres in 1893.

The railroad assessment of 1893 was nearly \$2,500,000 greater than that of 1899—a decrease of 8.3 per cent in the six years, yet the increase in mileage had been but 7 miles. Exclusive of railroads, the decline in assessed value of other property from 1893 to 1896 was over \$23,000,000, or nearly 14 per cent. If tangible property, valued according to the usual methods, is to be considered without reference to franchises, then the present board and all boards preceding it have assessed the railroads high enough.

But the trouble is that the value of a railroad cannot be determined in the same manner as the value of a farm or a city house and lot is determined. A house is valued as a house—not as a combination of mortar and brick and window glass and shingles; but a railroad, under present methods, is valued as a scrap-heap of engines, cars, rails, ties, depots, and a strip of right-of-way. It should be valued as a railroad. But when it is valued by comparing it to contiguous land, and the depots, cars, engines, etc., are valued at what it would cost to replace them, it will be found that the railroad as an entity is much more valuable than the value of all its constituent parts, ascertained in the usual way. The difference between the two represents the value of intangible right to exist as a railroad, to exercise the right of eminent domain, to "charge all that the traffic will bear." Our constitution declares that franchises shall be taxed—but railroad franchises never have been taxed in Nebraska.

The agitation for just taxation of franchises is of recent growth in Nebraska. It is not yet very well understood, but the people are learning. The Independent is free to admit that it is learning something every day regarding railroad taxation, and a frank statement from the Bee would contain the confession that the Independent has learned about the same subject since 1900. The railroads have never borne their share of the taxes, because they escaped paying on their franchises; but The Independent has nothing to take back of what it said in its issue of May 17, 1900, because then the whole question was discussed from the standpoint of actual, physical, tangible property and there was ample evidence to show that railroad property was assessed as high on the average as other property. The question of franchises was not mentioned then.

The Reason.

"It is hard to understand," says the Post-Dispatch, "why the flag should stay up in the Philippines and be hauled down in Cuba." The reason for the difference is clear. In the case of Cuba the people through the democratic congress, found the declaration that the flag should not remain as a condition precedent to its being carried there. In the case of the Philippines the people have not had a say.—Memphis News.

"WE ARE POPULISTS"

Editor Independent: The discussion of political candidates is still in order. Whoever is named at Grand Island, it is to be hoped that he will not be a political nonentity. No good can come of a nobody. It is useless to avoid the issue. If we are in search simply for plunder, let us quit now and have done with it. But if our principles mean anything, let's put up a man whose nomination is a platform in itself.

The absolute integrity of the populist party must be maintained. We are not ready to be swallowed up. What are the democrats going to do in 1904? That is the question. If I allowed them to swallow us, and some demo-republican were nominated in 1904, would we not feel cheap? Still we must bear a mind that Bryan and his Nebraska democrats are all right. Without Bryan we could not have carried the state in 1896. The democrats put up for two campaigns with one place on the ticket, and allowed to reap almost the full benefit of Bryan's nomination. These things are not to be lost sight of.

Yet we are populists, and populists we will remain. We do not ask, now we must receive, the kindly aid of those democratic editors who have struck at so many of our leaders, as soon as they were charged, without waiting for proof. No, we are populists; and populists we will remain, if you please. WILBUR F. BRYANT, Lincoln, Neb.

GOVERNOR DAMERELL

Mr. Friend Dr. Enthusiastic For His. Houchin Is Robert Damerell. Editor Independent: I am an old ex-soldier and a populist. I see a great many names brought out for governor. I want to express my choice for governor and the reasons. I have lived in Iowa for nearly thirty years and I have been well acquainted with our candidate for twenty years. I know him to be a gentleman of integrity and ability and would make a first class governor. Give us Robert Damerell for governor and the people will ratify the wisdom of the nomination in November. The populists will rally around the banner of Damerell as they do that of none other. I give my reason why Dr. Damerell is the proper man for governor. Let us carry on the fusion ticket and we will carry the state. F. HOUGHIN, Red Cloud, Neb.

LONESOME WHITELAW REID

He Will go Alone to Offer Adoration to King Edward—Roosevelt's Imperialistic Appointment. The Springfield (Mass.) Republican in speaking of the action of the senate on the appointment of a special embassy to help crown King Edward makes the following remarks:

"Whitelaw Reid has rented expensive apartments in London for the coronation season. He has provided himself with a retinue of attendants, and doubtless ere this with the requisite red plush breeches of a special ambassador, and he will now go to the coronation in that capacity as representative of the great republic if he has to go entirely at his own expense. But the proceedings of the senate Saturday indicate that he will go actually representing the feelings and sentiments of only about one-tenth of 1 per cent of the American people, and that he will go by virtue solely of a poorly considered act of the administration.

"This embassy hunts for apologists and supporters almost in vain. They were summoned to appear from the republican side of the senate yesterday, and did not appear. Mr. Hoar expressed his disapproval of the whole affair, and regarded as unanswerable the argument of Mr. Bailey that the president, in naming such an ambassador on his own authority exclusively and without confirmatory action by the senate, had exceeded his constitutional powers. Even Mr. Lodge, who as much as anybody is the spokesman of the administration and who is completely in the wrong, looking toward the Anglo-Saxon conquest of the world, felt obliged to express his personal disapproval of this particular outcropping of Secretary Hay's imperialistic alliance. His attempt to find a precedent in President Cleveland's creation of a "paramount commissioner" to visit Hawaii falls ridiculously in the face of the mark, for the mission of Commissioner Bayley was merely that of a personal agent of the president, sent to make a special inquiry for the enlightenment of the chief executive. He might as well have referred, as a case in point, to President Grant's appointment of Gen. Babcock as a special agent to secure information in San Domingo for the chief executive's use in respect to the question of annexation.

"No, President Roosevelt stands quite alone in this affair, and so does the great republican editor. The latter will appear at the coronation in all the red plush puffery and fluffery that the occasion calls for, but the approving sentiment he will be able to call out will not come from the other side of the ocean. It is evident that none exists worth mentioning on this side. Mr. Reid will undertake probably the most lonesome function ever created in this country, and if his ambition does not prove costly to his party, he may count it fortunate. The embassy certainly cannot now prove very satisfactory to the British king and people."