

## The Nebraska Independent

Lincoln, Nebraska.

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### The Ticket

For Governor.....W. H. Thompson  
(Democrat, Hall County.)  
Lieut. Governor.....E. A. Gilbert  
(Populist, York County.)  
Secretary of State.....John Powers  
(Populist, Hitchcock County.)  
Auditor.....C. Q. De France  
(Populist, Jefferson County.)  
Treasurer.....J. N. Lyman  
(Populist, Adams County.)  
Attorney General.....J. H. Broady  
(Democrat, Lancaster County.)  
Commissioner Public Lands and  
Buildings.....J. C. Brennan  
(Democrat, Douglas County.)  
Supt. of Schools.....Claude Smith  
(Populist, Dawson County.)  
CONGRESSIONAL.  
First.....Howard H. Hanks  
(Democrat, Otoe County.)  
Second.....Gilbert M. Hitchcock  
(Democrat, Douglas County.)  
Third.....John S. Robinson  
(Democrat, Madison County.)  
Fourth.....William L. Stark  
(Populist, Hamilton County.)  
Fifth.....Ashton C. Shallenberger  
(Democrat, Harlan County.)  
Sixth.....Patrick H. Barry  
(Populist, Greeley County.)

The Wisconsin bankers are "dead set" against asset banking.

The republicans make of politics a syndicate of selfishness instead of a science of government.

Schwab has broken down in health and gone to Europe. He will continue to draw his salary right along.

Trusts, tariffs and imperialism are a devil's trinity, as true "a three in one" as ever John Calvin imagined.

The talk now is for \$15 coal and 20-cent corn. Vote 'er straight or the democrats and pops will ruin the country.

The military censorship still continues in South Africa and the Philippines. It is one of the necessities of imperialism.

The modern corporation capitalists have the same love for the labor organizations that the old-time slaveholder had for the abolitionists.

The one object of the money power is to use the people everywhere, whether white, black or brown, to fill the pockets of those who ride on the people's backs.

New York must be the prophetic New Jerusalem, where the gathering of the tribes was to be. According to the Jewish World there were in that city on the 1st of August 584,788 Jews.

The auditor's office of the war department has discovered that the bonds of quartermasters in the Philippines are worthless. It will perhaps discover a number of other things before it gets through with accounts of "our insular possessions."

Of all the despicable creatures on the earth, these little free-pass creatures in the towns of Nebraska, who work the year round for the corporations and republican party, are the most contemptible, base, sordid and low.

The republican administration is so delighted with the coining of silver that even the war department has gone into the business. It is announced that the war department is purchasing the machinery to set up a mint in Manila to coin the new Filipino silver dollar, which they call a "peso." They say that they are going to turn out millions of them.

The proceedings in any court is nothing more nor less than compulsory arbitration. It would be only extending the system and not introducing any new principle to apply it to the anthracite coal barons. They are engaged in a brawl that threatens the public welfare and it should be settled on the same principles that all other such things are settled.

An eastern daily remarks that "speculation has drawn down bank reserves to a very narrow margin." Why could that paper have used plain, every-day English and have said: "Gambling has so increased in the United States and so much money is employed in that business that the bank reserves have nearly disappeared."

### TO EASTERN READERS.

Several letters to the editor of The Independent from somewhat recent subscribers in the New England states express astonishment at some of the things that they see in this paper and they conclude that the doctrines of the populist party have completely changed within the last three or four years. There was never a greater mistake. The principles that The Independent advocates now are the very same principles always advocated by the populist party without variable-ness or shadow of turning. These letters show that outside of the portions of the country where the populist papers have circulated that the people are in profound ignorance of the principles of populism and the necessity for the extension of the populist press if these principles are ever to be understood by the mass of voters.

Today the eastern dailies speak of the "populist idea of an unlimited issue of paper money," and the people of that section, judging from the letters above referred to, still think that is the "paramount issue" with populists. At one time the Century Magazine published what it declared to be a summary of populist principles, every word of which was a misrepresentation. Senator Hoar read that article, which was published as a pamphlet, in the senate and gave it his sanction. When a populist senator denounced it and undertook to read the populist national platform as evidence of its falsity, every corporation lawyer in the senate was on his feet to prevent the reading. It took a long and fierce fight to get the privilege of reading that platform, and the shrewd corporation lawyers so managed that it was only read sentence or part of a sentence at a time, with much irrelevant matter interjected in between, so that when it appeared it was practically useless.

The Independent wishes to say to its eastern readers that the principles of political economy that the populist party now and always has advocated, generally speaking, are those to be found in the works of John Stuart Mill. On the negative side it has opposed from its very birth, trusts and combinations of capital in restraint of trade, the concentration of wealth in few hands, the watering of stock, gambling in grain on the boards of trade, government by injunction, and the issue of money by private corporations. It now opposes asset banking, branch banks and most persistently assails the undue expansion of credit money which is a house of cards liable to tumble over at the first unfavorable breeze.

Long before any other organized body demanded them, it favored the public ownership of what are now called "public utilities," and the referendum.

Its financial policy has not changed in the slightest degree. It began by declaring that all money was the creation of law, out of which the plutocratic press evolved the term "fiat money." Populists have always declared that it made no difference to what material the money function was applied, that the value of money, like everything else, was fixed by the "quantity" available to supply the demand, and that the "quantity" should not be left to the haphazard output of mines, but be fixed by an intelligent government so as to maintain it at a stable value and consequently to result in stable prices. To the sneers of the capitalist press when the writers thought it enough to render the party discreditable simply by saying "fiat money," populists have replied that no one would maintain that anything could be made money without the authority of law, if that was the "fiat" of the government, then all money, whether gold or anything else, must of necessity be fiat money.

The charge that populists ever favored an unlimited issue of paper money was conceived in malice and published with the intent to deceive. The largest per capita amount of money ever favored by any populist, including gold, silver and paper, was fifty dollars. That never had the endorsement of a majority of populists, although it got into some of the platforms. What may be called the general opinion of populists concerning the amount of money was that enough should be issued to raise prices to the point existing when the great national debts were contracted. That alone they argued would produce justice alike to bondholder and taxpayer.

It is true that populists look upon metallic money as a relic of barbarism. They hold with Ricardo that if all the metallic money was annihilated and the same quantity of paper money issued in its place, that the paper dollars would have the same value and purchasing power that the eliminated metallic money had had. They believe that such a money could be so regulated that prices would remain stable, and that all kinds of business could be conducted under such a system with justice to both creditor and debtor, and that it would, to a large extent, eliminate the risks that must now be assumed, which amounts to nothing less than gambling in many industries. When the manufacturer buys his material eighteen months ahead of the time it appears upon the

retail counters, he must take all sorts of risks as to what prices will be at that time. If a mountain of gold should be discovered or a new process invented whereby tons of it could be extracted from old dumps and low grade ores now rejected, prices would rise. If, on the other hand, the mines should fail, prices would fall.

On the ethical side, if ethics can be said to enter into either political economy or politics, the populists have maintained the highest standard. Wherever they have had power they have given the most hearty support to education. They stand to a man in defense of the doctrines promulgated by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence. They look with horror upon wars of conquest. They have been unwavering friends of the wage-workers although but few wage-workers have ever voted the ticket. Nearly every populist is a student of political economy as taught by the great founders and expounders of that science. In thousands of populist homes in these western states there are small economic libraries which have been diligently studied. Populist papers always contain economic articles discussing those questions of present interest. Take for instance the discussion of the balance of trade. The idea that a country could grow rich by forever shipping more wealth out of it than came into it, was denounced in every populist paper, while millions of people believed that a "favorable balance of trade" consisted in shipping every year five or six hundred million dollars' worth more of gold, silver, merchandise and raw material out of the country than came into it. They as quickly and unanimously denounced the idea that we could forever sell goods to foreign nations and buy none in return.

This article is written in answer to questions in several letters received from the eastern states where the Nebraska Independent has obtained such a large circulation within the last year, but there is a lesson for western populists to learn in regard to it. An earnest and universal effort should be made to put such papers as the Nebraska Independent into the hands of every voter. Populist principles are of such universal application, so grounded in science, so appreciated by every thinking man who understands them, that to bring them into acceptance by a very large majority of the people of the United States, it is only necessary that the people should become acquainted with them. To make them acquainted with them, what other way can be suggested that will accomplish it with the economy of sending to them weekly a paper that in an able and fearless manner is an expounder of them? One man in this state—a man who is not a candidate for any office or a seeker for office—has sent since last January 100 copies of the Nebraska Independent for a year to as many different men. Some scores of others have sent from five to twenty copies. Populists generally are men of good common sense and they adopt the most expeditious and cheapest way of spreading their opinions.

### CASH VALUE.

It is simply a waste of breath to talk about assessing property at full or fair or actual or any other kind of "cash value." It will not be done. The present law demands all that is necessary along that line—but it is not enforced and never will be, because the framers of that law overlooked a very important element, peculiarities of human nature. The average man rarely thinks or asks anything about the rate of taxation. All he notices is the assessed valuation. If that is high, he kicks; if it is ridiculously low, he feels satisfied—until he comes to pay his taxes.

Now, it is much easier to nicely adjust rates on a full cash valuation than on any fraction—but the difficulty is to get the full cash valuation, especially when it is known that taxes will be levied on that valuation. All modern tax legislation taxes into consideration this peculiarity of human nature. Over in Iowa valuations are made on what is supposed to be actual value; but the taxes are levied on one-fourth of that. One-tenth would be better still. One-tenth is the ideal fraction because our money system is a decimal system, and the calculations would be more easily made.

That there is no honest hard work or real thinking done on the great dailies is shown by the fact that the statistics of the beet sugar industry which were published in The Independent two months ago have just got into the Chicago dailies. The Record-Herald makes a first page scare head article of them. When the thing was up before the senate such an article would have been appropriate, but to have got it up then would have required some real work and original investigation. But the dailies are only for the entertainment of the rich and idle, the gambling class and the satisfaction of the morbid craving for criminal news. All that can be supplied with very little labor and no serious thinking at all. It is not so with such matter as fills the columns of The Independent.

### A WORD TO DEMOCRATS.

The Independent fails to see how the democratic leadership can retain the respect and confidence of the mass of the party unless it takes some measures to inform the rank and file concerning the facts in regard to the silver question. They are asked to reaffirm the Kansas City platform and their chief knowledge of that platform consists in knowing that it demanded the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. They are somewhat familiar with the statements made by the principal speakers of the party concerning the necessity of the coining more silver to prevent a further decline in prices. They have not been informed that the republican party has been coining more silver than was ever coined before and yet they see a rise in prices. One of the old rank and file of the democratic party—a man who had always voted the democratic ticket, who takes a democratic daily paper and presumably may be taken to represent thousands more in the party—said to the editor of The Independent a few days ago:

"I am a democrat and still believe that Bryan is a good man who advocates only what he sincerely believes in, but he was certainly mistaken about the free coinage of silver. I voted for him, but the republicans got in and stopped the coining of silver. What Bryan predicted did not come to pass. Prices have continued to rise ever since. I am getting three times as much for my hogs, corn and cattle than I got before the coining of silver was stopped."

He was asked if he would vote the democratic ticket this fall and he replied that he "thought" he would, but that he had lost all interest in politics. He said that he believed Bryan was right about the trusts, but then he might be as badly mistaken about them as he was about the coining of silver.

Why the democratic press and campaign committees are as silent as the tomb about the coining of silver, grows more inexplicable every day. It is probable that the democratic campaign book which will appear this week will not say a word in the subject. No democratic newspaper will mention it. Yet what could be more effective than a page or two of that book giving the official reports of the director of the mint of the amount of silver that has been coined since 1896? It would be effective although not a word of comment was added to the official reports.

The Independent wishes to say to the democratic leadership in this state that they are going to lose votes if they do not take some measures to inform their voters of these facts. It is true that a few thousand Bryan democrats take The Independent and know the facts, but the mass of the party is in utter ignorance of them. The Independent has done all that it could do to get the democrats to publish the facts and it now makes this last appeal to them.

When the democrat above referred to, and he was a man of more than average intelligence, was informed that the republican party had been coining more silver than was ever coined under the Sherman act, he would not believe a word of it. The conversation took place in a country town, but at last one report of the director of the mint was found at a bank. When he was shown the figures he was astonished and angry—angry at the leadership of his party and at the editor of his paper. One remark that he made was: "What is the use of paying six or eight dollars a year for a daily paper that don't inform you of a thing like that?"

After that, it did not take this populist editor ten minutes to change that man into an enthusiastic worker as he had ever been in all his life. Things became clear to him. He was shown the increase in the volume of money in circulation caused by the coining of silver, the increase in bank notes and the output of gold and how that increase had exactly the effect upon prices that Bryan said it would have. The Kansas City platform became a new and lying document to him. An hour afterwards he was seen on the streets giving every republican he met hot shot for having adopted the financial principles of the Kansas City platform that they had sworn by the holy horn spoon would bring destruction and misery upon the whole human race.

When the democrats have such an effective weapon as this to use and will not use it, causes The Independent to wonder why they will not?

### OUR NEW SUPREME RULER.

It is said in the eastern papers that Teddy has intimated to Justice Shiras that it would be a fitting thing to retire. If that is so, it is the first time that a president of the United States ever assumed such powers. It would be just as proper for Justice Shiras to intimate to Roosevelt that now is the proper time for him to resign. The Boston Herald and New York Post declare that it was not Justice Shiras who changed his vote on the income tax decision, but Justice Gray. This starts a lot of rumors to the effect that the income tax decision will be re-

versed when the new Justice Holmes gets on the bench. From all this it appears that a new ruler for the United States has appeared who will change the whole trend of the government. If imperialism and the income tax decision are to be overthrown, a tremendous change would be made in the form of government under which we live. So it appears that neither congress nor the president rule this country or form its policies, but it is the fifth judge on the supreme bench who makes this nation an empire or a republic, that taxes the rich or lets them go free. That is what Mason and some others in the convention that framed the constitution of the United States said would be the end of putting on this third wheel to the government cart, called the judiciary department, with power to override the acts of congress and formulate the policies of the government. Whether our new supreme ruler will proceed to change the form of government or not, we will have to wait to see.

### THE REPUBLICAN MACHINE.

In every town in this state there are three or more persons who are subsidized by the railroads with free transportation. They go and come without ever paying a cent of fare. These men make an active working force for the republican party who are always on duty. They attend the primaries, county and state conventions and by that means the railroads have complete control of the party machinery. That sort of organization makes the republican party a great fighting machine, with paid agents in every town in the state always on guard and always ready for active work. Through the whole year they are at it. They always speak of a populist or democrat as an anarchist, a socialist or one determined to ruin the country. They keep a stack of the most outrageous falsehoods always on hand ready to dispense at a moment's notice. They will declare that the populists doubled the cost of the state government, and when shown the official reports that the populists reduced the expenses of the state nearly one-half and the state debt about \$600,000 during the years of the hardest times that we ever suffered, and that without raising taxes, they declare that these official reports are simply pop lies, published by the populist state committee and not official reports at all. Notwithstanding the record that their governor has made concerning the pardon of convicts, beginning with that of Bartley and ending with the ministerial bigamist, they declare that the populist governor pardoned half the convicts in the state penitentiary, when the official reports show that he did not issue a single pardon during his whole term.

Some years ago when this writer was urging a certain lawyer to accept a nomination for supreme judge, and he was a man of the highest character and one of the recognized leaders of the bar, he replied: "To elect any man to a state office in this state whom the railroads oppose is almost an impossibility, no matter what his qualifications or ability may be. The railroad corporations all working together form a force that it is next to impossible to overcome. They have paid workers in every county, they can send as many secret agents to any part of the state as they wish. Through their printing bureaus—the railroads do an immense amount of printing—they can circulate tons of literature. They can bring hundreds of voters into the state at any time. They can induce hundreds, by the offer of free transportation, to leave the state who would vote against them. They will supply the republican campaign committee with all the money that it can use. Now what chance has a man against a combination of men and money like that? I think that we will have to wait until there is a little higher ethical standard among the voting population or until the course pursued by the railroads ends in some great disaster to all the people."

The condition described by this lawyer years ago is practically the condition today. Only one or two things are different. A large body of voters in this state have educated themselves in political economy since then and thousands of honest men have since that time left the republican party, joined the opposition forces and are the most earnest fighters against corporation rule in the state. These two conditions alone should give us the victory. A corporation literary bureau, whether it prints its matter as paid advertisements in fusion papers or circulates them in pamphlet form, will not have the effect that such work formerly had. The orations of the town corporation hireling will be estimated at their true worth.

The Independent would like to ask some of these western bankers who have at last got up courage enough to resist a Wall street demand for branch banks and asset currency, if government credit is necessary in the issue of bank notes, why not let the government issue the notes on its own credit without going through all the formality of issuing bonds and then taking them back and giving the banker all the money he paid for them?

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### REPUBLICAN DAILIES.

The Chicago Record-Herald and Tribune united in denouncing Altgeld. They called him an anarchist and every vile epithet that they could invent while he was governor and insisted that the government of the state must be returned to the republican party or devastation and ruin would sweep it from the lake to Cairo. Their circulation was large and the people were induced to elect their man Yates, who was to give Illinois, with the aid of the corporations, good government. But corporation rule has proved to be the same in Illinois that it is everywhere else. So foul has the state government become that these papers—the Record and Herald having since hyphenated—that they are now compelled to repudiate him. The republican government in Illinois is as foul a thing as ever cursed any state in the union. The Record-Herald says of the governor that it helped to elect:

"He is responsible for the inhumanity and degradation at Kankakee, for the mean and oppressive extension of the spoils system. He is, in fine, an unmasked Pecksniff, whose pious platitudes and promises before the election increase the contempt that is felt for his present conduct."

After Altgeld was dead these Chicago papers that slandered him while he lived, said that he was a philosopher and thinker of the highest class and a perfectly honest man. From this bit of history the public can form an opinion what value the editorial writing in the great republican dailies really has. The most of it is simply malicious drivel.

### IOWA DEMOCRATS.

One of the most distinguished democrats of Iowa, one who was always true and among the first to repudiate Cleveland and all his ways, has written an open letter to the reorganizers in the state. He takes up the Kansas City platform plank by plank and shows them that they indorse, or pretend to indorse, every plank in it but one and that one declared not to be the paramount issue at that time. He wants to know what they propose to reorganize and what principles they propose to substitute for those in the Kansas City platform. The document would have been a complete overthrow of the whole crowd of reorganizers if the gentlemen had gone one step further and pointed out that the monetary principles to which the reorganizers object, have been adopted as the policy of the nation and that more silver has been coined than was ever coined under the Sherman act. He could have wound up the letter by asking them what they were kicking about any way. Their friends, the republicans, whom they helped to elect, have already adopted and applied that part of the Kansas City platform, on account of which they want to repudiate the whole document.

### PHILIPPINE SCHEMES.

A farmer asks The Independent to more clearly define the schemes for looting in the Philippines to which reference was made last week. To give a description of each one of them would be an interminable task and the exact facts would be hard to get. There are some things, however, that all may know. The legislation of the last congress provided for all sorts of looting and one would be foolish to imagine that it would not be taken advantage of. There are promoters at work in every part of the country, taking the money of the people to open mines, build railroads, construct street car lines, control the output of copper, to establish lighting

plants, and every other sort of thing that one can think of. The Philippines are 10,000 miles away and the supreme authority is in Washington, exercised by the same class of men who have been legislating for the sale of Indian lands. What will be done in the Philippines can be guessed at by what is done here.

Last winter a lot of republican schemers met Senator Millard in Omaha. There a plot was concocted to convey a large amount of Indian lands to a syndicate, precautions being taken to prevent any of the hard working men who have been renting lands from the Indians from having a chance to buy any of them and make homes for themselves. The bill was prepared and rushed through and it works to perfection. In the first place it prevents the Indians from getting the full value for their lands and in the second place secures them to the syndicate, for much less than they could be sold for. The form of deed is imperfect and the whole amount must be paid cash down, a thing that was never demanded before and which makes it impossible for the ordinary farmer to buy. If they do such things as that in Nebraska, what will they do 10,000 miles away in the Philippines? Congressman Robinson's vigorous protests were of no avail. If every renter on the reservations does not vote for Robinson, it is because he has not good common sense.

### REPUBLICAN TARIFF REVISION.

Secretary Shaw, in the "cabinet campaign" that has been organized in New England, delivered a speech in Vermont the other day in which he gave his idea of tariff revision. It was as follows:

"Let these representatives of the people from the manufacturing districts of New England, from the coal regions of Pennsylvania, Indiana and Ohio, and the iron-producing regions of Michigan and the iron-producing districts of Ohio and Pennsylvania, the agricultural districts of the middle west, the stock ranges of the mountain states and territories, the rice and cotton states of the south, and the fruit and lumber districts of the Pacific coast, get together, and if they can agree upon one or a dozen items in the present tariff schedule that can be reduced, let it be done."

That is to say, let the republican members of congress representing all the tariff gratters of the United States get together and after consultation if they think that they can afford to reduce the tariff on a dozen articles, let them do it and everybody else keep their hands off. That scheme "takes the cake." But that is the only kind of tariff revision that will ever come from the republican party. If any man wants the tariff revised in such a way that he will not have to pay twice as much for American goods that a foreigner can buy them for, he will have to vote some other than the republican ticket.

The republican party has claimed divine guidance while engaged in killing the brown people of Asiatic seas, but now the "cabinet campaigners" in the eastern states go a step further and claim a "divine harmony" in the present tariff schedules.

In northern Nebraska whenever one of these little town republicans begins to get very active and rantankerous the populists and democrats make references to passes or inquire what was the last orders received from the headquarters of the railroad corporation. That generally has a tendency to make them more quiet and civil.