

The Nebraska Independent
Lincoln, Nebraska.

LIBERTY BUILDING. 1328 O STREET.

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Lincoln, Neb.

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LIBERTY BUILDING OCCUPIED

We have moved. Liberty Building is now occupied. Last Monday we left 1245 N street and moved into the building our subscribers have been helping us to erect during the summer—No. 1328 O street. We were so anxious to occupy Liberty Building before the campaign is over, that we did not wait for the finishing touches to be put on. But we're in our new home, even if the plastering and painting are yet to be done. Come in and see us—upstairs, second floor, No. 1328 O street. A little "torn up" yet, but we'll be glad to see you.

The Ticket

- For Governor.....W. H. Thompson (Democrat, Hall County.)
 - Lieut. Governor.....E. A. Gilbert (Democrat, 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.)

BRYAN DATES

The state committees announce the following dates for meetings to be addressed by Hon. William J. Bryan:

- October 9—Tecumseh, afternoon; Auburn, evening.
- October 10—Springfield, forenoon; Papillion, afternoon; Plattsmouth, evening.
- October 11—Ashland, afternoon; Wahoo, evening.

Please don't forget it. Mickey is a candidate for governor.

A monopolist is a sneak and a coward, always and everywhere. He wants some advantage over his opponent. He will not enter a fair contest.

Baer wanted federal troops and John Mitchell wanted arbitration. That is the attitude of labor and capital. Which will commend itself to sober, honest and patriotic American citizens?

It is probable that if the president had another sort of a lawyer for attorney general, he would find out that the government was not so perfectly helpless in the presence of a trust as Knox tells him it is.

Gold is not money by weight. It is true that 25.8-10 grains of gold are a dollar, but not until it has the government stamp upon it. A piece of gold in the form of a cube or any other shape is not money until the "flat" of the government is placed upon it.

"You don't have to guess what the republicans will do." Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Yet Teddy in his New England tour said he THOUGHT congress would pass certain laws, though he couldn't speak for anyone but himself.

J. Pierpont Morgan assumes that anything can be bought, from the original Burns' manuscripts to votes enough to carry an election. On the Burns' manuscripts he got left, although he offered \$25,000 for them. On the votes he still has a cinch.

What the removal of tariffs can do for a city has had a demonstration in the city of Thammerfors in Finland. Some time ago the czar issued an ukase giving the town the right to import all machinery and raw materials free of duty. In a few years a city of 50,000 inhabitants sprung up in that northern region. It is said that it manufactures rival those of Manchester, England. The newest and best machinery has been imported from America and the business is enormous. The privilege expires in 1906.

POWER OF A BABY TRUST

When Nicholas Biddle told Andrew Jackson what he and the banking interests would do if he, General Jackson, refused to do the bidding of the bankers, the general replied: "If you have that power, it is too much for any private interest to hold. It is a threat against the government and must be overthrown." But the power that Biddle claimed to exercise was but a drop in the bucket to the power of a great modern trust.

Look for a moment at the power of the anthracite coal trust, which is small when compared to some other trusts of much greater magnitude. It claims absolute monopoly over the production of anthracite, and up to the present time has maintained that monopoly. Dispatches from Washington say that the president and cabinet declare that the government is utterly powerless. It remains inert and if the coal trust refuses to mine coal nothing can be done. That is equivalent to saying that this trust, by simply issuing an order to stop the production of coal, can suspend the common schools in many cities that depend upon that kind of coal for heating purposes. It can stop many factories and throw thousands of workmen into idleness. It can raise the price of rent of all heated buildings. It can double the price of all other fuel by decreasing the supply to the amount of the anthracite output and cause untold suffering to hundreds of thousands of the poor and even of the moderately well-to-do. It can throw the whole internal commerce of this nation into confusion. That is a greater power than was ever exercised by any potentate on earth before. It is idle to say that such a statement is an exaggeration, for to a considerable extent the coal trust has done all those things already. And yet it is a baby compared to some of the other trusts.

Morgan has the power to issue an order to stop the production of steel and iron. On his will alone depends the employment, directly or indirectly, of millions of men. The whole transportation of the country is subject to his whim, for if he should issue such an order it would not be long before all the railroads would be disabled. The factories that depend upon machinery would soon all have to close down. The mills that use iron and steel would cease grinding. The threshing machines, as soon as a wheel or cog broke, would stop and the grain would rot in the stack. Desolation would reign from one end of the land to the other. A writer could not tell in a hundred columns what would happen from the exercise of such power.

The experience of ages, the wisdom of man for thousands of years, has resulted in our form of civilization. It is interwoven and interconnected in every direction. An interference with any of its fundamental principles throws the whole system into confusion and no man is wise enough to tell where the confusion will end. What we now enjoy of comfort or luxury has been evolved from a system, the basic principle of which is that every man should have equal rights—there should be a fair contest. In other words, upon competition.

Every grant of special privilege is an attack on competition, and the republican party has been granting special privileges for forty years until we stand on the verge of a social cataclysm. Human nature does not essentially change. The exercise of unlimited power by any man or any set of men has had but one result in all history. Mankind fought for a thousand years and soaked a thousand battlefields with their blood to overthrow the unlimited power of kings. The republican party has substituted for that the unlimited power of trusts. We live and move and have our being only by their consent. The head of the steel trust, the Standard Oil trust, the clearing house banking trust, or any one of the other trusts could throw us all into destitution and want at any time by the issuing of a single order, and the president and his cabinet declare that the government is helpless. Who would have ever thought that Roosevelt, the rough rider, would surrender without a fight! It is true that he has fired two blank cartridges, one at the Northern Pacific merger and one at the meat trust, but that is all. Now he hauls down his flag and surrenders. He announces that the government is helpless. The trusts are greater than the government.

PROTECTING THE FARMER

The demand made in the east for a revision of the tariff is just as urgent as it is in Iowa. Any one who thinks that a tariff is constructed in the sole interest of the people and for their benefit, will get some surprises if he reads the literature that is being circulated in immense amounts on that subject. It is being put out by the very men who demanded tariffs and declared most vociferously that if they did not get them "the industry would be ruined." The tariff on hides comes in for a good deal of denunciation.

That was put in the bill by the meat trust. If the tariff on hides was taken off, it would not lower the price of steers 10 cents a head. But the trust can sell the hides at a great advance in price to the tanners. The tanners add the raise to the cost of leather. The manufacturers of shoes, harness and saddles add it to the cost of shoes, harness and saddles and the scores of other things in which leather forms a component part. Who buys these goods? Mainly the farmers. So this tariff was arranged to enable the meat trust to tax a few millions a year out of the farmers and add them to the enormous profits of the trust. It is called giving protection to the farmers.

The tariff on cattle is a tax on farmers also. If the tariff was taken off there might be a few steers come from Mexico and Canada. If they did, they would add to the value of the corn crop, for they would be fed and fattened on western corn before they would be offered for sale at the packing houses. The number that would come could not possibly affect the price to any appreciable amount.

A WORD TO READERS

The readers of this paper may look out for some chilly editorials even if they do not get cold enough to freeze. We have moved into the new building, but it is not plastered and when a fellow's fingers get cold and the ink gets stiff, when the typewriter girls and subscription clerks wear beaver jackets, when the typewriter keys get cold and everybody's noses are blue, if you get anything but chilly editorials you may be thankful. There is no necessity for that sort of thing. If the several hundred subscribers who are behind with their payments would pay up, a force of men could be put on, the building made comfortable and the whole Independent force happy. Most of these delinquencies result from pure neglect and carelessness. A collector don't come to your house with a bill and you just neglect to send the money—always a small sum—just from carelessness. Now for heaven's sake "get a move on you" and send in your back subscription. The heat from the big stove don't penetrate the cold air ten feet away and half the time the editor feels more like saying very bad words than he does like writing editorials. It is but a small sum from each of you, but if half of you would send it in, during the next few days, we could have these rooms plastered. Of course The Independent building, like every other building ever erected since Adam lived in a cave after being driven out of Eden, cost a good deal more than the contractors and architect said it would. This old populist ship is beating up against the northern blasts and while every member of the crew sticks to his or her post of duty, there is a lot of shivering done before the sun gets up high enough to warm things up. Please send in what you owe and let us all warm up.

PASSED IN SILENCE

Organized labor is talking of some things that it has passed by in silence heretofore. There is a "labor commissioner" at Washington, paid a big salary by the people and is supposed to look after the interests of labor. This commissioner has never been selected from the ranks of labor and is not by education, personal association, habit of thought or experience qualified for such a position. It would be just as reasonable for the president to appoint a lawyer as a member of the geodetic survey or merchant as captain of a man of war. Carrol D. Wright is a man of honor, a gentleman of fine culture, but the very nature of his environment from his birth to the present time has all tended to unfit him for such a position. While the trusts are permitted to select the attorney general, the tariff grabbers the speaker of the house and a majority of the ways and means committee, while those in every line of industry have men of their own calling to represent them at Washington, labor has never been permitted to make a selection of one from among themselves to represent them in the executive departments at Washington. The trade unions have never made serious protest when the rich selected one of their own number to represent labor, they have simply passed it by in silence. Now some of the leading men among the wage-workers are beginning to call attention to this great injustice. The labor commissioner at Washington should always be a man who had been a workman in some trade, just as much as the attorney general should be a lawyer.

Having found the "gold standard" a r'erable failure, Wall street now proposes that we shall adopt a new system. This new deal is to give the holder of a bank "promise to pay," the depositor's money for security and the depositor is to give up all the security that he has for the benefit of the banks. That's the thing that will take the place of "the gold standard" as sure as the republican party stays in power. The new system is called "asset banking."

DISCUSSING THE TARIFF

The following correspondence explains itself:

"Editor Independent: I am very anxious to be better informed on the arguments for and against what they call 'protection.' While the money question in innumerable phases has been discussed in The Independent, the tariff question, which seems to me will soon be a burning issue in politics, is given but a paragraph now and then. I write to inquire why more is not written on that subject."

The following reply was made: "The tariff question was debated, about ten years ago, from one end of the land to the other, and the editor of The Independent, while an editorial writer on the old Omaha Herald and afterwards on the World-Herald, wrote hundreds of columns on the subject. It seems to him that the subject has been about as thoroughly threshed out as any subject could be."

In reply to that, another letter was received, a sentence or two of which was as follows:

"I am a young man, having been a voter for only three years. All this discussion was before I was old enough to take an interest in government, and there are a good many thousand voters in Nebraska in the same condition as myself. You must remember that every generation must be educated, the education of the last generation will not suffice for this. While the subject may be an old and hackneyed one to you, it is new to me, and as a juror, of which you spoke not long ago, I ought to have all the facts presented to me."

There is much truth in the statement, but the young man must remember that he must do his own thinking. All that any one can do to help him is to state a few fundamental principles, and taking them as premises, he must reason the thing out for himself, adopting the scientific method, that is, make an effort to arrive at the truth regardless of preconceived opinions or prejudice of any sort.

One of the fundamental truths of political economy is that any restriction upon exchange is detrimental and hinders the production of wealth. Tariffs are instituted for the express purpose of restricting trade. Study over that proposition for a while to begin with. Free or unrestricted trade is denounced by every believer in tariffs. A man who believes in unrestricted trade is denounced as the very worst enemy of his country by all "protectionists." But all this is only a starting point. If the premise is untrue, the proof of it ought to be easily obtained.

Hundreds of other questions of like nature will present themselves. One of them is taxation, for tariffs mean taxation. Should a government obtain its revenues from a tax on consumption? A rich man worth many millions consumes practically very little more than a poor workman. Taxes collected by means of a tariff force are almost the same amount from the rich and the poor.

That a nation has a right to protect the commerce of its own people from raids intended to destroy it by rival nations, no one denies. When a rival nation sends in goods and sells them below the cost of production for the express purpose of destroying the manufactures of another, it acts in a criminal manner just as the trusts do when they send in goods and sell them far below cost for the purpose of destroying a smaller rival, and there is no manner of doubt that government has a right to "protect" the sufferer from such criminal acts. Those who advocate tariffs assert that that is the only way that "protection" can be given. Is there not a score of ways in which such criminal acts could be prevented and punished aside from tariffs? Think it out. Are tariffs really instituted and maintained for that purpose? When a nation has a large foreign commerce, selling its goods all over the world, can it be proved that a tariff is necessary to prevent raids on its commerce?

Does a tariff create monopoly? The old argument used by the tariff advocates was that tariffs stimulated competition. That home manufacturers as soon as they were well on their feet would compete with each other and the result would be the lowering of prices. Has the high tariff in this country produced that effect? A study of the tariff question involves an investigation of these things and hundreds of others of like nature. To understand them requires much consecutive thinking and hard study and no one can do that for another. He must do it for himself.

VALUE AND PRICE

Mr. H. Ellington, of Minnehaha, Minn., has written The Independent a number of very interesting letters recently on the question of value and price, most of them too long and abstruse for our readers at present. It is impossible for him and The Independent to come to an agreement on the subject because he persists in mistaking utility or usefulness for value. The inherent qualities of a thing which make it desirable do not constitute value, else water and air would be the most valuable things in the world. Air has absolutely no value, because

it is practically unlimited in supply and is not the subject of exchange at all. Value is human estimation placed upon desirable things subject to exchange, the supply of which is limited. It is a numerical relation. There can be no conception of value without employing numbers, and exchange is a factor always present, either actual or implied.

That value and utility are not the same can be shown by taking a bushel of potatoes. The value "stated in terms of money" may drop ten cents a day for several days, yet the life-sustaining quality remains the same. There can be no change in the inherent qualities of the potato without the slightest effect upon the potato.

SHAW AND PANICS

The financial condition in New York is still the theme of discussion by all classes. Many of the leading men there are denouncing the action of Secretary Shaw in releasing about \$20,000,000 bank reserves and some even claim that he should be impeached. He has certainly made a ruling that every previous secretary of the treasury and comptroller has absolutely and positively refused to make, although the bankers have often implored them to do so. The law requires these New York banks to keep a 25 per cent reserve for all deposits. Secretary Shaw has ruled that they need keep no reserve at all for government deposits secured by government bonds. The government deposits now being nearly \$200,000,000, this releases about \$20,000,000 and decreases the reserves by just that much. That is simply saying to the engineer, "Open the throttle and let 'er go regardless of consequences." It is a reversal of the policy that all honest bankers have always followed in times of monetary stringency. In such times it has always been the effort to strengthen the reserves, but Secretary Shaw, instead of doing what all secretaries before him have done, that is, sent warning notes to the banks to keep up their reserves, has deliberately issued an order to weaken them to the amount of twenty millions. He is simply adding fuel to the flames instead of quenching the fire.

The truth about the matter is that the republican leaders seeing destruction ahead if they followed out the policy that they had advocated during the last two national campaigns, attempted to adopt the populist money system in part, but not being well enough grounded in the science of political economy, they have made a mess of it. They have adopted every device that could be invented to inflate the currency. They have not only coined all the gold and all the silver that has been mined, but they have made use of every known device to inflate the paper money. The result of the increase in the circulation has been just what populists said it would be, an increase in prices and relief from the horrible conditions brought about by contraction and falling prices. So far they were all right, but they did not know how to take the next step.

Populists would long ago have put a stop to the inflation of credit by making the banks keep such reserves as were provided for in the original banking act. They would have stopped this transferring of reserves from one bank to another as loanable funds. If every bank had been compelled to keep such reserves, the credit balloon would not have half the gas in it that it now has.

According to the statements in London and Berlin, Wall street has borrowed at least \$200,000,000 from Europe. Secretary Shaw placed about \$200,000,000 more there. That makes \$400,000,000 poured into the capacious maw of the gold standard financiers within the last few months and still they cry for "more money." If all the money in the world was poured in there it would only tend to raise prices and create new and just as insistent demands for "more money." That is not the remedy. A check must be given to the expanding of credits. Every dollar of money that comes into Wall street, under the present system, is the base for from four to ten dollars of credit. Of course this thing can't go on forever.

The Independent is perfectly willing that the republicans should take the brunt of the coming panic, and for two reasons. We had to take the blame of the last one and turn about is fair play. Then this coming panic has been created by republican policies with the whole government under their control and they should receive the reward of their own doings.

The annual report of the commissioner of immigration, appointed to take the place of the traitor Powderly, shows that Powderly was a scoundrel of the first water and of the same moral calibre as Nebraska's rewarded traitor, Clem Deaver. Immigrants were not only blackmailed, but most inhumanly treated. The republican party is the first party in any civilized country to inaugurate the policy of openly rewarding political traitors.



Get As Much if You Do Pay More...

No matter which store finally secures your patronage, or whether you pay \$2.50 to \$7.50 more for your Suit or Overcoat than we would ask, see that you get all the merit that belongs so peculiarly to the clothing Armstrong sells.

Men have paid \$18.00, \$20.00 and \$22.50 elsewhere for clothes that were not as good as the noble values we sell at \$15.00.

Men have paid \$12.50, \$15.00 and \$17.50 for Clothing that neither in material or workmanship is the equal of our splendid \$10.00 Suits and Overcoats.

A comparison of the Armstrong catalogue with others will reveal splendid money-saving opportunities awaiting you at this store.

We claim to be the best clothing house in the west. It looks very much as though you have to concede the claim.

Come and see us or write concerning your clothing needs.

Armstrong Clothing Co.

1221, 1223, 1225, 1227 O Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

FIGHT TO THE BITTER END

All the battles we have fought with greed and plutocracy up to the present time have only been skirmishes to what is coming in the near future. It is true that in all of the preliminary skirmishes greed and plutocracy have won, with a single exception, but that is not an infallible indication that it will win in the great battle near at hand. The first clashing of these forces in which men of this generation took part was at the outbreak of the war. While the young manhood of the nation rushed to the front to lay down their lives in the defense of the union, the cormorants of Wall street were busy in laying their plans to accumulate immense fortunes out of the blood of the people. They were willing that the boys at the front should be paid in paper money of less than half the purchasing power of that they received for interest on the money they loaned to the government. They planned and executed many schemes to destroy the government's credit so that they could buy bonds at 40 cents on the dollar. They won out.

Next they planned to get the government to let them issue the paper money instead of issuing it by government authority and on all such issues they got double interest, one from the people and at the same time interest from the government. They have held that fort ever since.

Then they planned to double the value of the money which they were to receive for interest on the government debt and on the debt itself and all other debts when it was paid. That was the only instance where they did not gain a complete victory. Their defeat was not on account of their plan, nor because they failed to buy elections, but the result of the unexpected increase in the output of gold. All the geologists of the world had declared that there would be a gradual decrease in the production of that metal and on the best scientific opinion of the world they formed their plan. They were defeated in this because the wisest were mistaken in their forecast concerning that one thing. If the production of gold had been what the scientists said that it would be, plutocracy would have had a power to oppress equal to that now enjoyed by the trusts.

The speed with which this defeat was turned into a victory is one of the most brilliant that satan-inspired intellects ever accomplished. What these men were after was to gather into their own possession the wealth of the world. They had expected to accomplish their purpose by a decreasing supply of money, by "making money dear and everything else cheap," as President McKinley once remarked. When that purpose was foiled by the unlooked for and unprecedented output of the mines in Alaska, in Australia and in South Africa, they reformed their forces and proceeded on a different plan. This, broadly stated, was to control all production, establish a monopoly in everything, control the output and fix the prices. As a cover to conceal the enormous profits that they expected to receive, if these industries were capitalized at their actual value, they watered the stock from 100 to 1,400 per cent. If all the trusts were declaring dividends from 40 to 100 per cent, it might make trouble. Declaring from 10 to 40 per cent appears to the unthinking not so extensive a robbery, while in fact the former is what the trusts receive upon all the money they have invested.

It is probable that the unthinking

masses, always easily deceived, contentedly plied with the sophistries of a daily press owned and edited by men in the Wall street interest, would submit to this without serious protest, but another thing has come to the front. There is an inborn sentiment in every man to be free and independent. It usually acts upon impulse rather than upon reason, and it is liable to at any time.

Autocratic power is feared by the mass of men. When they see the president and his cabinet raise the white flag and declare that the government is helpless before a baby trust like the anthracite coal trust, when it is common knowledge that this infant can lay waste whole communities, shut down factories, stop the common schools in many cities, increase the cost of living in hundreds of thousands of families, by a simple autocratic order not to mine coal, it is liable to arouse an impulse to throw off the rule of trusts. Then will come the great battle. The trusts, many single ones of which are now greater than the government, will combine. The baby trust has now quite a force of well armed men under its command. They were recruited from the vilest criminals in the cities and will not hesitate to execute any order given them. When this fight opens in earnest, the campaigns of 1896 and 1900 will appear as mere skirmishes beside it. The power of the trusts has increased a hundredfold in the last six years. They will have the government and government forces on their side to begin with. They will have at their command millions of money. They will have the most perfect organization that the world has ever known.

But just as desperate battles for liberty have been fought and won in the past. They have been fought by the Germans, the Dutch, the Scandinavians, the French and the Anglo-Saxons—the very races that inhabit this continent—and they will win them in the future as they have won them in the past.

Teddy, the rough rider, may raise the white flag at the first onslaught of a trust—a baby trust at that—but there are millions of American citizens, men whose forefathers fought for liberty in this and all the countries of Europe, who will fight it out to the bitter end.

A QUESTION OF EQUALITY

Although the proposed postal scheme of providing special postal cards and stamped envelopes for large advertisers, whereby the postage is collected on delivery, has the element of justice in it that the government will receive pay for all the service it performs, yet it might lead to further concessions to heavy users of the mails which would break down the principle of treating all users of the mails alike. The poorest citizen can send his letter for exactly the same price as the richest; and the sender of a thousand letters pays as much for each as the sender of one does for his. It is this exact equality that distinguishes government postal service from railroad service under private ownership. The rich and powerful shipper of a carload of corn gets a much lower rate than is granted the poor man who ships a car of corn.

Of course the proposed plan will be a benefit to The Independent. But if it should lead to discriminations in the postal service, The Independent is against it, no matter what its individual advantage might be.