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# Mayer Bros.

Lincoln,

Nebraska.

## STRANGE THINGS HAPPENING

A Few Republican Papers at Last Telling the Truth—The Rich are Growing Richer and the Poor Poorer

It is hard to tell the reason why, but it is a fact that several republican dailies have lately printed editorials and admitted articles to their columns of an entirely different character from anything that has appeared in them for the last six years. The following editorial from the Baltimore American, a republican daily, is of a different character from any this writer has seen in a republican daily since the time when John Sherman and Grover Cleveland went into partnership on the money question. Recently there has been a great deal of "jubilation" in the republican press over the fact that the treasury statements show that there is on deposit \$108 per capita for the whole people of the United States. They say this represents so much "money" that the people have put in the banks, which statement The Independent has often proved to be wholly false, and many other things just as far from the truth. The following analysis of the treasury statement is correct and might have been printed with propriety in any populist paper. Any how it is going into this populist paper with the editor's full indorsement of its conclusions. Would the American have permitted such an article to appear in its columns in the campaigns of 1896 and 1900? Why does it do it now? Has it really learned something about banking and political economy during the last six years? Has it become convinced that the financial policy of the republican party is leading straight and fast to ruin? What was the motive for its production, it was printed in the Baltimore American and is as follows:

are uniformly small, and the national state and private banks dislike to both with depositors whose accounts, deposits and balances are insignificant. Hence it is that 'the plain people,' the brain and brawn of the nation, who lay by a little each week and deposit it for safe-keeping, go to the savings banks for their accommodation. From time immemorial deposits in banks of this class have been recognized as the standard by which to measure the wealth of the great bulk of our population.

"What do the comparative statistics of savings banks show? We know that deposits of all kinds have nearly doubled but how do 'the plain people' who put their money in savings banks, fare? But one answer can be made to either of these questions. The showing is very poor. In 1892 the aggregate of savings bank deposits was \$1,712,769,026 today it is \$2,597,994,580. This is an increase of but \$885,225,554. In other words, while the wealth of the nation on deposit has increased nearly 100 per cent in ten years, the wealth of 'the plain people' has increased only about 50 per cent. Considering the enormous increases in our population in the last ten years, this slight increase in savings bank deposits means that the per capita of such deposits is smaller today than it was in 1892.

"Stronger proof of the oft-repeated assertion that the wealth of the country is, with ever-increasing steadiness, being centralized in the hands of comparatively few people could not be asked for than is offered by these figures. The deposits of the people are growing proportionately smaller while the deposits of the rich, of corporations and of trusts are growing constantly larger, and that at a rate of increase so rapid as to give rise to the gravest apprehensions."

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### A Colorado Populist

Editor Independent: I had no trouble in disposing of the block of five cards you sent me. The populists of the First congressional district have indorsed John F. Shaforth for re-election ticket. I am in favor of sustaining the organization of the populist party, for if the Hill-Cleveland faction has the framing of the next democratic national platform, the people's party will be in demand. We cannot hope for relief from trust exactions under a republican administration. They have been in the saddle for six years and have not abolished a single trust but instead the trusts have multiplied to a greater extent than ever before. J. R. BIXBE, Ft. Morgan, Colo.

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## GOVERNMENT BY INJUNCTION

It Must be Abolished or the Old Battle for Free Speech, a Free Press, and a Trial by Jury Must be Fought Over Again

Recent occurrences have given greater emphasis than ever to the subject of "government by injunction." If trade unionism is to survive "government by injunction" must be prohibited. More than that. Unless it is prohibited, public meetings and public speech, which in any wise threaten vested interests, will cease to be rights of American citizenship and become mere privileges by the grace of American courts. It may sound pessimistic to predict a revival of the old struggle for free speech, a free press, and jury trial but history repeats itself, and all those rights, so confidently believed to be secure, are at hazard in the rapidly unfolding policy of "government by injunction."

Free speech is threatened when judges presume to specify by arbitrary decree the circumstances under which public meetings may be held and public speeches made. Freedom of the press is always insecure when and where freedom of speech is regulated by arbitrary decree. The right to jury trial begins to totter when alleged abuses of free speech and a free press may be punished without the intervention of juries. All three therefore are at hazard when judges can prohibit any kind of public speech and summarily punish without any trial. The question of granting injunctions against labor strikers is more than a labor question.

Pursuant to their well settled rule against granting injunctions prohibiting crime, the courts steadfastly refused to issue injunctions restraining the publication of libels. And for this reason was an additional reason. Not only would such injunctions be in restraint of crime thereby infringing upon the right of trial by jury; it would also be in restraint of freedom of the press. But this most exemplary restraint upon the injunction-issuing power was broken into in 1868. An English judge then granted an injunction to prevent a publication of libelous posters. Of course the injunction was not against workingmen. Legal innovations, if repressive, naturally take that course. Liberal innovations run just as naturally in the opposite direction. This English precedent was eagerly seized upon by the American courts, especially the federal courts—which have their judges appointed for life, from the center of federal power, and are therefore not so easily swayed by public sentiment as any other public sentiment than that of the clubs the judges frequent—and in a little while "government by injunction" was in full feather. Meanwhile the higher English courts had overruled the English precedent, so that this judicial policy of the American courts rests upon a decision which the courts of the country in which it originated have repudiated.

Far as our courts had gone in issuing injunctions against crime it was not until the summer of just past that they would so far as to infringe not only upon the right of trial by jury but also upon the equally sacred right of free meetings and free speech. But if the startling West Virginia precedents are followed, the right to hold public meetings and freely address the people who attend, will depend upon the opinion of a judge as to the wisdom of allowing the meeting to be held.

Now, it is true that the right to hold public meetings and make public speeches is not absolute. It is a right that may be abused and its abuse cannot be made the subject matter of injunctions without destroying the right. Between allowing freedom of speech and press, subject to punishment upon conviction for its abuse, and restraining speech and press in advance by injunction or other decree, there is all the difference that distinguishes liberty from tyranny. Consider what the power of issuing injunctions against public meetings and public speaking means. A judge is advised by affidavits that lawless meetings have been and others are about to be held at places and under circumstances which threaten to injure property rights. Now, if that is true, if these meetings are in fact lawless, the promoters and participants are properly subject to indictment. If indicted they are entitled to a trial by jury. If convicted by the jury they are liable to punishment. But what for? Not for holding meetings and making speeches. They have a right to do that. They are liable to punishment because a jury has convicted them of abusing the right. But when a judge issues an injunction, the right itself is restrained. Observe that he does not issue an injunction to prevent the defendants from holding meetings upon the complainant's property. That would not be an injunction against meetings and speeches it would be an injunction against trespass. He issues it to prevent their holding meetings on their own property. It is, therefore, an injunction against meetings and speeches. If, now, the meetings are not held, those who participate are not tried by a jury for holding lawless meetings. They are tried by the judge for disobeying his order. The act is identical, but it has acquired a new name; and because it has a new name, the judge decides that under that name he can try it himself, though under the other name he could not. So the judge decides what kind of meetings are lawful and what are not, what kind of public speaking is allowed and what shall be prohibited, which persons are guilty and which are not, and what the punishment of the guilty shall be. All this lies within his breast as chancellor. When he comes forward with the king's conscience in his keeping, he lends and advocates, and the constitutional rights of free speech and jury trial sink out of sight.

Though these injunction abuses have so far been connected with labor strikes and used in restraint of labor unions, the question they raise is not alone a labor question. If strikers' meetings on their own premises can be prohibited and labor speeches forbidden, if this can be done by a judge's order and the same judge can punish as for contempt and person who attends the prohibited labor meeting or makes the prohibited labor speech, then every other kind of meetings and speeches is subject to the same arbitrary interference. It will in that case be only a question of occasion and sufficient hostile interest when political meetings and speeches, religious

gatherings and exhortations, and race conferences, and addresses, may be brought under the judicial ban if they happen to be offensive to a big judge whose injunction is sought. Free assembly and free speech would cease to be rights which judges are bound to respect. They would become favors that judges might regulate as they pleased. Given a great propertied interest which demands it, with an irresponsible judge (and federal judges are practically irresponsible) who personally favors it, and any public meeting could be forbidden, any public speaker could be silenced unless he courageously defied the lawless judge.—Louis F. Post, in American Federationist.

## VOTE FOR NONE OF THEM

They Will Down Every Mutual Insurance Company in the State if They Continue to Hold the Government

Editor Independent: Do you think that there is a voter in this state that will vote for a single man on the republican state ticket? If there is, he ought to have to pay 12 per cent on every \$100 of insurance he carries, as that is something like what he would be paying today if it had not been for the organization of mutual companies throughout the state, as I have a friend in Oklahoma who is paying \$12 on every \$100 worth he carries. Look at the stab the present administration made at the mutuals recently, and had it not been that a campaign is on the first ruling made by the state auditor and the attorney general, viz: That no school house, church, court house, jail, poor farm buildings, in fact, any public buildings controlled by a city council or board of directors, could be insured in any mutual insurance company, the opinion of Mr. Prout to W. K. Fowler, June 22, 1902. The basis of this opinion was and has been the contention of all old line companies, viz: That every person that insures in a mutual company of any kind is personally held for the liabilities of such a company. Hence the Prout opinion, conveying the idea that a court house, church, city jail, fraternal halls, poor farm buildings, in fact, any public buildings, that were not owned by an individual, as said individual must and is held responsible for each and every liability of said mutual insurance company, as per Weston's and Prout's first ruling, and this ruling would never have been reconsidered had it not been that these enemies of mutual insurance were afraid of defeat in this election, and this is the only thing that kept this corporation gang from stabbing to death the mutuals of the state. If you are a friend of the mutual system, vote for the fusion state officers, who are the authors of mutual insurance laws and by the election of these men you will rob Prout and Weston of the opportunity of stabbing you again. J. M. W. Falls City, Neb.

## Disgruntled Republicans

I am of the opinion that this country would be a fruitful field for making converts to the people's party. There is a surprising lot of disgruntled republicans around here that who would never affiliate with the democrats on account of long standing prejudices, and I cannot blame them, for, as you know, the reorganizers have possession of Illinois. I can assure you that if I had a vote, the democrats here would not get it any more than the republicans. Best wishes for your growing influence. FANNY GRAY WHEELER, Bloomington, Ill.

## Generous Offer

I can scarcely with justice to myself and family afford it, as I am taking a medical course and shall need all the money I have, and more, too, before I get through, but your offer is so generous and my will is so in accord with the object in view, viz: to spread the populist gospel, that I could not resist the temptation and herewith enclose the five cards and money card for the same. I wish The Independent marked success. G. W. SUDDARD, Chicago, Ill.

## A Republican Scarecrow

In an interview printed in the Chicago Record-Herald Governor Cummins, republican of Iowa, referring to the prediction that terrible results would come from tariff agitation, said: "This is a scare-crow set up in the open fields. It is a device always resorted to by those who want the tariff treated as a sacred fetiche. The menace to this country today is not tariff change, but the temptations to reckless stock watering, which avaricious men find in their ability to create monopolies in production. We cannot avert disaster by falling on our knees and worshipping a tariff schedule. The truth is that men who are enjoying the fruits of monopoly are daily laughing in their sleeves at the fatuity with which the people permit them to plunder under the form of law."

## A Suggestion

If your house or barn needs painting it will pay you to write to the Nebraska Paint and Lead Co. of this city for color card and price list. They sell the highest grade of paint and can save you a large percentage in the price. The editor of The Independent used nearly 50 gallons of their paint and indorses it fully. Write them; they'll treat you right.

## Entertaining

In another column The Whittman Co. are advertising phonographs and phonograph records. These instruments are very popular and becoming more so all the time for evening entertainments. For socials, parties, etc., there is nothing better. Write for catalogue and information to The Whittman Co., Lincoln, Neb.

Readers of The Independent should examine the advertisements in its columns. It will pay you to read them and take advantage of the bargains offered. Always mention The Independent.

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