

darkness and rank along with other criminals that society denounces. A prominent republican said to a fusionist during the campaign: "Everything is fair in politics." The fusionist looked him straight in the eye and replied: "No, sir; some things are criminal, whether in politics or outside of it."

As near as can be estimated the republicans spent about \$30,000 in printing garbled figures and fallacious arguments in the weekly press of the state. Here again is where the republicans had the advantage. Many times arguments for reform have been offered for publication in republican papers at regular advertising rates and were refused. But the railroad arguments were printed in the fusion papers at the regular rates. Every man knows, who has given the least time to investigate the subject, that the railroads are taxed less than half on their salable value than the farms of Nebraska are taxed. But very few of the voters have had the time or facilities to make investigation of the subject. The great railroad lawyers, trained in all the tricks of logic, can of course put up an argument that will easily deceive the common man when no reply is allowed to be made. That thing they proceeded to do in every democratic and populist paper in the state, always excepting The Independent, and all the millions the railroads have could not get one of their lying statements into this paper as long as the republican press continues to refuse to publish an answer.

The voters have been so demoralized and corrupted by republican methods that the great expense of a campaign is getting the voters to the polls. A fusion voter said to the writer: "The republicans always have buggies and teams at every precinct to send for voters. Why can't our folks treat their voters as well as the republicans do theirs? I know of half a dozen who would come if you would send for them. All the republicans out there have been sent for." There is where the corporation contributions count. In this state they got every man to the polls who would vote their ticket. There were some thousands of republicans who would not vote for Mickey and they did not go to the polls. If the fusion committees had had one-fourth of the money to pay for checking up the voting lists and sending for the indifferent voters, every fusion candidate on the state ticket and for congress would have been elected by good round majorities.

The railroads could make money by paying \$5 to get a voter to the polls, while whatever the fusionists paid was that much money out without hope of return. The fusionists proposed if they were elected to just double the taxes now paid by the railroads. If the republicans were elected the railroad taxes would not be increased. So a voter was worth to them at least \$5 a year as long as the republicans hold power in the state. Railroads have no politics. It is simply a matter of dollars and cents with them. If the fusion party would lower their taxes and keep up freight rates, they would support it just as heartily as they do now the republican party. With the private ownership of railroads, elections are up for sale and the highest bidder gets them.

What is true of this state is true to a greater or less extent in all the states. Republican bosses in Nebraska, corrupt as they are, are not different from leaders of that party in other states. What then is to be done? To attempt to contest along the lines of corruption employed by the republicans would be useless. Even if successful it would only result in getting a few offices, and what does that matter to the mass of the people? That is the line along which the reorganizers would fight.

The Independent does not believe that a majority of the people of the United States are corrupt. If they are, the day of retribution will not be long postponed. Thousands of them

act as they do for want of information. The thing to do is to get the information to them. It is far better to spend a few hundred dollars in getting a paper like The Independent into the home every week in the year than to spend thousands sending for voters on election day. The editor would like to hear from his readers on this subject.

Rosewater tells the railroads that "to attempt to seduce and manipulate the government under present conditions would require means so gross and obnoxious that popular agitation would spread like wildfire. It would be moonstruck madness for the railroad corporations of Nebraska now to provoke such a situation." All of which is simply poppycock. A majority of the people of Nebraska seem to care not a tinker's malediction whether the railroads pay any taxes or not—but their interest is aroused immediately when Bud Lindsey and Tom Darnell merge the retail liquor dealers' association and the anti-saloon league and go to whooping it up for a prohibition-high-license republican candidate. What do people care about taxes when there is a sham whisky fight stirred up?

Since Mr. Dickinson left the Union Pacific, the editor of The Independent has not a single personal acquaintance among the general officers of that road. He don't know what kind of men they are and don't care, but he does know that attacks on them by union labor leaders miss the mark altogether. These men are simply hirelings, as much as the men who work in the shops and must be even more careful to obey orders than machinists and blacksmiths. If piece work is ordered, it is not Mr. Burt who orders it, but Harriman, Gould or some other Wall street magnate. The members of labor unions are "up against" Wall street, but they do not seem to know it, at least some of them don't. It has been under the policies of the republican party that Wall street has developed into the mighty power that it is. Scores of other men have felt its heavy hand, just as the labor unions now feel it. No man can escape the toll he has to pay to it.

The republicans are very fond of quoting a "part" of a sentence from one of Senator Hoar's speeches in which he said that the republican party had made but one mistake in fifty years. Crimes can hardly be called mistakes and by that loop hole Senator Hoar escapes. It was not a mistake to steal the presidency and the perjury and fraud by the means of which it was accomplished were not mistakes. It was not a mistake to issue paper money and make the soldiers take it and then partially destroy its legal tender power and make it redeemable in coin and thus double the value of bonds which were bought and paid for in that same paper money. No, none of these things were mistakes, they were crimes. But there was one thing that was a very grave mistake—not the imperialism to which Senator Hoar referred—and that was when the republican party enfranchised 4,000,000 ex-slaves who were descendants of generations of the lowest savages and who had had no opportunity to prepare for citizenship. That mistake resulted in a disaster that hung as a shadow of blackness over this republic for a quarter of a century.

Up in Cuming county a republican farmer went into his chicken house just at dusk and seeing what he thought was a fine Plymouth Rock chicken sitting in one corner he took it up and folded it to his bosom. The supposed chicken turned out to be a Mephitic Americano. The other republican farmers of the state who have folded Mickey to their bosoms will have the same experience. A man who was elected by notorious forgeries could not turn out any other way.



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The changed form of The Independent has long been under consideration. The character of the paper seemed to demand it. When speaking of The Independent the Boston man says, "It is unique;" the western man says, "There is no other paper like it." The form in which it has hitherto appeared made it difficult to preserve and perhaps there is no other paper in the United States that is so universally filed away for reference after it is read as The Independent. The new form will be more convenient in many ways. What surprises most people is that a populist paper, published out on the plains of Nebraska, should get a national circulation, having many hundreds of readers in every state and territory in the union. It has never had any agents to spread it among the people and has grown to its present enormous circulation by the unselfish work of the readers of its columns. Men read what The Independent has to say, are impressed with it and show it to their neighbors. Others make a practice of lending their papers to their neighbors who in time become subscribers.

This is not the result of any extraordinary ability of the editor. There are thousands of other men in the United States who are more learned, who are better economists and sociologists, who know the history of this government better, who have read just as many works on banking and in other ways are far better equipped to fight plutocracy than the editor of The Independent. The only difference seems to be this: The editor of The Independent not only knows the truth "but dares to tell it," and so far no influence has been great enough to get him to stop telling it, or in the least to modify it in the interest of the rich.

Another reason why the circulation of The Independent is increasing with such rapidity, especially in the eastern states, is that there is not a paper of general circulation in all that region which dares to print articles containing the principles laid down by the great economists. Some few will print "part" of the truth. What paper in all the eastern states dares to print the chapter on money in the ordinary university edition of John Stuart Mill as annotated by J. Laurence Laughlin? And Laughlin was a gold bug and

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