

## HARDY'S COLUMN

We are pleased to have a reader of The Independent, who honestly disagrees with us on important public questions, stand up and give his reasons for disagreement. There is no method that has the influence upon readers or hearers like the presentation of both sides of a question. We have not heard of but one republican candidate who has dared to enter into a joint discussion with his opponent, during the last congressional campaign. We hail J. C. Yingst of Harrisburg as a man who is not afraid to let people know where he stands.

One would think from the caption over his letter that we are in favor of shooting men down for quitting work on a strike. It was only for protecting other innocent men that we proposed using guns loaded with bullets. One man had the same right to stay and work where he had worked for years as another man had to quit. If the mine owners and non-union miners had commenced to murder and blow up the homes of the strikers we would say use the same loaded guns to protect them. We can't believe that the editor of The Independent or Mr. Yingst is in favor of allowing the strikers to murder all the men who do not join the strike, from the same mines or shops.

Inexperienced miners put no one in danger but themselves. There must be experienced miners a plenty for coal mines are spread over ten states east of the Rocky mountains. If a mine owner employs men whom the law forbids working, suit should be commenced against the mine owner instead of peddling death among his innocent workers.

We are not sufficiently friendly toward the trusts as to vote the trust ticket, nor are we so pickled with injustice as to favor murdering their leaders or followers. A majority vote the trust ticket and the minority should submit. We would like to know where in the Declaration of Independence is found the authority for strikers to attack the non-strikers. What is our state militia and standing army for, if not to protect innocent citizens? When all the dozen strikes now on are settled and the strikers continue to vote for the present millionaire trust rule, where can any reform come from? The high protective tariff is claimed to be enacted in the interest of laboring men, while at the same time it brings prosperity to all so, of course, the coal diggers will continue to vote that ticket and get what they vote for.

We cannot vote with the tariff, trust and corporation party, for we believe in equal rights, equal justice, equal privileges and equal protection to all, young or old, male or female, black or white.

We happened to be mayor of the city of Lincoln several years ago when there was a big strike of the engineers and firemen on the B. & M. railroad. All the officers of the company who had ever run an engine became engineers and their clerks turned firemen. We had heard that the strikers had made trouble in several places. One morning several neighbors came to our bedside to inform us there was going to be trouble that forenoon. We told them we did not believe it, for the railroad men of Lincoln were sensible, but we promised to be prepared for the worst. So we ordered the police to be at the depot when the trains came in and to protect the men on the train if they had to shoot the aggressors down. If Mr. Yingst had been mayor, would he have instructed his police to protect the strikers in their effort to murder the train men? That is our difference.

Had we been driving a loaded team through the streets of Chicago the other day when the teamsters were on a strike and they had commenced to cut my harness that my horses might go free, we would have shot them down as readily as ever we shot a skunk in our hen coop.

Yes, we are old. Our political notions began to germinate early in the forties. We could see no reason or justice in one man's holding another man as a slave. Early in the fifties we changed from the abolition to the new free soil party and in fifty-four we became a republican. We took pride in the scoffs, slurs and rotten eggs of our pro-slavery neighbors. In 1854 we ran for justice of the peace and were beaten by over a hundred. Two years later we ran for the same office against the same man and beat him by over a hundred. Since then the whole nation, men, women and children, have become opposed to slavery and nearly the whole world. We have made many "bad breaks" during our long life, but every one has been for justice and right and against injustice and legalized crime. We have to wait but a few years for the non-strikers to be protected. If the present case goes to the highest court it will be decided in favor of the millionaires, the same as

all other cases have been. The trusts are highly pleased with the last election. None of them are for Bryanism.

The meanest thing about labor union men is their objection to young men learning new trades, such as how to safely dig coal, to make glass and tin.

Our friend must have forgotten the noble work done by the strikers at Pittsburg, years ago.

We see no way of rectifying the wrongs of today only through the ballot box. When the majority get enough of them they will vote right, just as they voted for Lincoln. Our government has got to take control of public utilities. The decision of the present strike commission can have no legal force; it will be voluntary on both sides.

H. W. HARDY.

## Vincent Angry

Barring the efforts of Chairman Weber, Secretary Farris and Vice Chairman Scott, perhaps no man in the state worked harder for the success of the fusion ticket than did Prof. C. Vincent of the Central Farmer. The result election day was discouraging to say the least, and Mr. Vincent was not in the least "mealy-mouthed" in telling his readers what he thought about the man who stayed at home. Here is what he said last week:

The returns are very slow, but Thursday morning the indications point to Mr. Mickey's election by a narrow margin. The balance of the republican ticket is elected, since Mickey ran behind his ticket, while Thompson ran correspondingly ahead. The result on governor may yet place Mr. Thompson ahead, but our ticket below is defeated without doubt. Nebraska must endure another two years of Prout; another two years of careless officials that caused the loss of over a quarter of a million in burned buildings; another two years of low assessments for corporations—unless the board of assessors are scared into a slight raise, in which case they will claim it as a virtue, and the fool people will indorse the claim; two years of "Our Man Mickey," in which no man expects any legislation opposed to the fondest wish of the corporations; two years more during which branch lines in Nebraska will run trains only every second or third day and market value of stock be destroyed by the delays in shipping; two more years of "star routes" along railroad lines so that the people may get daily mail. But severe as is the punishment, the people deserve it, and we have not one word of pity for the parsimonious and stingy man who would not leave his field long enough to vote. He deserves to be overtaxed. He deserves to be misrepresented by Prout in all corporation cases. He deserves to have all the railway taxes transferred to his farm, and he deserves to have the rest of the state buildings burned and be compelled to rebuild them. He deserves to be represented in congress by a ballot-thief instead of a brilliant and able Shallenberger. He deserves to be represented by a railroad attorney instead of the able, dignified and capable Stark. The blame for this defeat lies at the doors of the farmers of Nebraska. The towns generally gave Thompson gains and the usual support to the rest of the ticket. The country vote was light. Republicans are generally massed in towns and their vote is easily polled, while more effort is needed for farmers to reach the polls and they did not make the effort. Two years ago the vote on governor was 227,000, and Dietrich had less than one thousand majority. It is conceded that there were "imported" into Nebraska from outside states not less than 13,000 republican votes. Allowing for these, the "Nebraska vote" would have stood: Poynter, 113,000; Dietrich, 101,000. This may be considered a fair estimate of the vote of Nebraska—a total of 214,000 votes. But last year the "farmers" remained at home and the republi-

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## 63—STALLIONS—63

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cans polled 99,000 of their 101,000 legitimate votes, while the fusionists polled only 86,000. The same experience is repeated this year. The vote is reported light everywhere and probably not more than 190,000 or 195,000 votes are polled. Of these the republicans, who are close to the polling places, have gotten out their votes, but many stupid farmers have placed the picking of twenty-five bushels of corn in the balance against an honest state government and chose the picking of the corn that could as well be done another day! Others placed their "convenience" in threshing their crop in the balance against a "government by the people" and deliberately chose "their convenience" on "threshing day." Such assinine stupidity deserves to be saddled with all the burdens of the tax dodgers and all the discriminations that a Prout can shift to their galled shoulders. The laboring men of Omaha came up to the help of the farmers this year, but the farmers were not there to be helped—more shame to them! Another feature that helped the tax dodgers to win was the fact that every student in the university, normal schools, business colleges, medical colleges and elsewhere was brought home FREE if he would vote the republican ticket, but had to pay his own full fare if he refused to sell his manhood. Republicans were furnished passes and populist and democratic boys were offered the passes on promise of a republican vote. These are not idle charges. They are the statements of

the boys themselves who could not afford the expense of the trip. Railroad workmen who were republicans were "at home," while those who would have voted the fusion ticket were sent out on trains where they could not vote. Railroad companies refused an application for excursion rates for fusion students so they might go home to vote, but furnished free transportation to their republican slaves.

Thus ends another chapter of shame for Nebraska farmers who are too indolent or too selfish to spend a half day to vote. True, many did vote at great inconvenience and great is the credit due them, but our contempt is strong for the selfishness and laziness and stupidity of those who placed a half day's work ahead of good government for two years.

Mr. Powers ran next to Mr. Thompson in Omaha, showing conclusively that the democrats stood loyally by him. The tremendous Thompson vote was due to the republicans of Omaha that came to him as the best man. Their partisanship would not permit their vote for the whole ticket, but the ice is broken and perhaps a further break may be made next time.

The voters of Keith county carried a "scalp bounty" proposition by 254 to 56.

The people of Saunders county showed mighty poor judgment when they defeated C. D. Curyca of Ceresco for representative.