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The people got a lot of elementary education during the anthracite coal strike on the subject of political economy. It was in the school where only fools will learn, that of experience, and it was costly.

Nebraska responded to Mark Hanna's cry to "keep on letting well enough alone." Which means that Nebraskans are willing to pay half a million dollars a year in taxes which the railroads ought to pay.

Now that the contest is closed for the present, perhaps some of the government officials at Washington who have spent the last three months on the stump, will name one of those "good trusts" that they were always referring to in their speeches.

The republicans were victorious in Porto Rico and carried the elections there by exactly the same methods that they carry them in the states. In many of the towns the opposition party were so intimidated that they did not try to vote. Charges of fraud are made everywhere.

There were 1,500 thrashing crews at work in Nebraska on election day averaging ten voters to each crew and nearly all of these men wanted the railroads to lower freight rates and pay their share of the taxes. How many thousand more of the same kind were husking corn nobody knows.

The chief article of export from the island of Mindanao is rubber, but the astute Chinamen have cornered the crop and ship it to Hong Kong where the British get it. But we keep an army there and every week we are told how some of our boys have laid down their lives either in a hospital or on the field fighting, and all for the benefit of the Chinamen.

The present election demonstrated the fact that the railroads own Nebraska. Many have suspicioned this for some time, but there is no doubt about it now. Perhaps the Omaha Bee is right in prayerfully supplicating the roads to "consent to a rational and equitable basis for the taxation of their properties." It is idle to boast about compelling them to do anything. They select the republican candidates for office—and what could you expect?

Rosewater is fearful that if the railroads of Nebraska do not grant his prayer and consent to be taxed more heavily, that the people of Nebraska may "lay a rough hand on the rate-making power." Not the slightest danger. Doesn't he know that J. H. Ager will be circulating about the state house lobby this winter among those 110 republican members of the house and senate? Doesn't he know that Baldwin's "man Mickey" could write a very pretty prohibition veto?

**EFFECT OF TRUTH TELLING**

New Zealand continues to lead the world. There is where the workers had sense enough to all vote one ticket, the result of which was that they took charge of the government. Since that time New Zealand has continued to forge ahead in prosperity and the leadership of the whole world in government of the people, by the people and for the people. The reason why the men who produce the wealth in New Zealand got together sooner than in any other country in the world was because they had in reality a free press there. The capitalists were not as shrewd as those in this country and failed to buy up or subsidize all the great dailies and the agricultural press as they did in the United States. Papers there did not universally refuse to print articles on economic subjects as they have done in this country and in consequence those questions were universally discussed. In this country questions of that sort were put upon the "index expurgatorius" in more than nine-tenths of the papers of this country. When such articles were offered here, even though written by the very ablest men and scholars of the very highest repute, they were either refused publication altogether, or, if printed at all, were cut up into sentences in such a way as to destroy all their force and then interspersed with sarcasm and ridicule. The editor has in mind two articles that were sent from Lincoln—one to the Boston Transcript and one to the Brooklyn Eagle—that were treated in that way. Both of them were able, well written articles by eminent men who had made a special study of the subjects treated. Today there is not a paper in general circulation, especially in the eastern states, that will print an article on the trusts, on the financial condition of the country, on the so-called favorable balance of trade, on the lending of millions of money to the bankers without interest, or any of the other questions vitally affecting republican policies that is not favorable to them. The editor of The Independent knows of more than a dozen of instances where men of national reputation as scholars, economists or sociologists, have tried it and they have all been treated in the same way. Their articles, though offered free, were refused.

During the last campaign there have been a few breaks in this line of policy and the effect was tremendous. A few days of truth telling in a great daily was sufficient to overthrow large plutocratic and corporation majorities. The Omaha Bee refused to support the corporation candidate for congress in Omaha and the Chicago Record-Herald refused to advocate the election of two republican candidates in that city. At this writing the Omaha man is badly beaten and at least one of the Chicago men and probably the other also. All that these two papers did was simply to "tell the truth" for a few days. It was simply straight, forward, honest journalism. No false charges were made, no "roorbacks" printed the day before the election when it was too late to deny or disprove them, nothing of the sort was indulged in. The power of truth telling proved to be irresistible. Both in Chicago and Omaha very great sums of money were spent to elect those candidates. Great corporations threw their whole force in favor of the defeated candidates and in Chicago several federal judges disgraced the bench by appearing for the disreputable candidates on the hustings. Notwithstanding all this, when the people got hold of the facts, they voted right.

All this shows the great power of the press and accounts for many things that seemed unaccountable in the behavior of the people toward trusts, the concentration of wealth and all those policies that have resulted from a government by the corporations and moneyed syndicates. The people do not know the facts. As soon as they know the facts they vote right.

The voters must not only be in-

formed of the facts, but the information must come in such a way that they will believe the truth when they read it or it is told to them. A democratic paper sent to voters with exactly the same statements that were contained in the Omaha Bee or Chicago Record-Herald, would have had no influence upon them. It is so very seldom that a republican paper can be induced to tell the truth in its editorial columns or permit it to be told in communicated articles, that to rely on them would put the day of reform off so far in the future that the present generation would have no interest in it. The question therefore arises: "How can the truth be got to the people in such a way that they will believe it?"

Those who are tired of paying taxes that the railroad corporations and the rich ought to pay and weary of the extortions of the trusts can find no better way to get the truth to the people than by sending to them a paper like the Nebraska Independent. It is written in the common language of the people and makes strenuous efforts in the getting up of every issue to present those facts that will enable all to see where the continuous rule of plutocracy and imperialism will finally land this republic. Now is the time to get such literature in the hands of the people—much more so than in the heat of a campaign when the ordinary partisan will believe nothing but what he finds in his own party paper. Some thousands of the readers of The Independent have used their efforts in years past in spreading its circulation. Counties where a portion of the campaign funds have been spent in that way have stood as solid as a rock against all assaults and misrepresentations, and now that thousands of readers in other states are engaged in the same methods of getting the truth to the people, it may be predicted that in the not distant future The Independent will, in a great measure, do for reform what the subsidized dailies and plutocratic weeklies have done for the trusts, corporations and national banks, that is, put the government in the hands of reformers, who will not pay double interest to the banks and then lend them millions for nothing, or build a tariff wall behind which the trusts can find shelter while they rob the people by extortionate high prices.

**YE QUAINT MAGAZINE**

Ye Quaint Magazine is the very apt title of a little bi-monthly publication by Amos W. Rideout, 7 St. Paul st., Boston, carrying this motto: "To be different." Well, it is. It dabbles a little in the occult. Has an astrology column edited by Dr. Deroli. Has good support from advertisers. Prints a neat little dialect story, a column of odd advertisements, brief book reviews, etc.

Quainticus, who writes the brief book reviews, says a good word for The Independent, for which we feel grateful. When Boston can see any good coming out of Nazareth, it is a good sign. The reviewer says:

"The Nebraska Independent (Lincoln, Neb.). To any one interested in economic questions, especially if they are of a radical turn of mind, I recommend this weekly publication. Its articles are all exceedingly interesting, very readable, nothing dry and dusty in it. To my mind it is far and away a better paper than Mr. Bryan's Commoner. It is \$1.00 per year. I think you can have a sample copy for the asking."

Correct, Mr. Quainticus, as to the sample copies.

Editor Rosewater of the Omaha Bee pleads with the "railroads of Nebraska" to be good and permit the republican state board to raise their assessment next year. Knowing that Baldwin and conferees selected Mickey some days prior to the republican convention, and knowing how strenuously Weston will fight any increase, Mr. Rosewater sees the futility of appealing directly to the republican officials themselves, and goes direct to the source of authority with his request.

**THE STATE COMMITTEES**

Now that the campaign is ended The Independent desires to call attention to the excellent work done by the fusion committees. Although the result is adverse, it is not due to any errors of omission or commission on the part of those in charge of the campaign. Chairman Weber and Secretary Farris of the populist state committee, and Vice Chairman Scott of the democratic committee, deserve great credit for the work they performed.

It is idle to deny that this was a republican year all over. President Roosevelt's interference in the coal strike had great effect. Bountiful crops and good prices told heavily in favor of the republicans, because so many see only surface conditions. Handicapped by lack of funds to accomplish needed work of organization, often without sufficient to pay postage on a few thousand letters, these gentlemen accomplished a great work. It is too often the case that those in charge of the campaign are either praised too much or blamed too much for the result. But the thoughtful, observant man knows that the fusion committees performed their duty well. If the populists and democrats who shucked corn on election day had done their part, the result would have been different.

**WE WON'T DENY IT**

There is no use trying to deny it. This "is" an era of prosperity—for the national banks. The people thought when Secretary Shaw announced that the banks need no longer keep reserves against deposits made by the government that that was a pretty good thing. Under the old system they could get interest on their bonds and then get all they paid for them back again in national bank notes which are largely a legal tender. When the regular treasury statement came out telling the people that the national banks had increased their circulation all at once \$13,482,736, inquiries began to be made how all this came about. Secretary Shaw made two new rulings for the benefit of the banks and to increase their profits. The first was that the banks need not keep reserves for government deposits where the deposits were secured by bonds. That allowed the bankers to loan out about \$20,000,000 which the law required them to hold as reserves. The other ruling was that banks could get government deposits, that is money belonging to all the people, without interest, on collateral such as municipal and other bonds. By a little manipulation that allowed them to increase their circulation thirteen million and a half without any further increase of capital. Yes, it is true, this is a great era of prosperity—for the national banks. Don't you wish that you had some of that prosperity that the republican administration is handing out to the banks? The bankers are a highly privileged class who now have something like \$150,000,000 of the money taxed out of you and the rest of us on which they pay no interest. Suppose you write down to Secretary Shaw and tell him you would like to have a few thousand dollars of government money without interest and see what he will say. If money is to be handed out to one class of citizens without interest, why should not all have a share? A few years ago when some farmers wanted the government to loan them money on real estate security at a reasonable rate of interest, every plutocratic paper in the land just howled and raved, but they all think it is all right to loan it to bankers without any interest at all.

About 5,000 republicans who went around declaring that they would never vote for Mickey, when the test came and the lash was applied, did vote for Mickey. These creatures are no more freemen than a black man on a southern cotton plantation before the war. To control a man it is only necessary to control his purse and in this age of the world to control his power to borrow amounts to the same thing.