

**VOX POPULI, VOX DEI**

The constitution of the United States or the state of Nebraska do not amount to so much as a breath of wind, whenever anything happens which requires their abrogation for the time being and to which no objection is made by any large body of people. When congress appropriated \$100,000 of money taxed out of the American people and applied it for the benefit of citizens of the French republic at the time of the Martinique volcanic disaster, it was certainly done in violation of the powers granted to congress by the constitution. The same may be said in regard to the appropriation made to pay the expenses of the hard coal arbitration commission. The supreme court, commissions of the state of Nebraska and the payment of money to the employes in the attorney general's office, are in direct violation of the constitution of the state, as well as the creation of a debt of two million dollars when the constitution limits the debt to one hundred thousand. But no one objects and these things are done. It is only another demonstration of the fact that the people of a nation can do anything that they wish if they are practically unanimous. Constitutions would not hinder them. It is only when the people are divided in opinion that constitutions come into play. If the whole mass of the people so desired, the government could take the railroads and run them for the benefit of the people at any time. So with any other project, constitutions or no constitutions. Vox populi, vox Dei.

**STRANGE THINGS IN POLITICS**

It has often happened in this country, and still more often in England, that a party has come into power by the advocacy of a principle which the logic of events and the natural progress of mankind has made impossible of execution. For the moment men ride into power on the prejudice and ignorance of the masses who vote for them, but when they are presented with the inevitable ruin that must follow if the policies which the party has advocated are carried out, they always find some method of adopting those of their adversaries, and "partisan insanity" prevents a rebellion in the ranks of their organization.

The great statesmen of England—men whose lives have become a part of the history of that empire—nearly all were exemplars of that strange thing in party government. Gladstone went into parliament as a conservative and was considered to be a great addition to the tory ranks. Lord Derby started as a liberal and declared that "the old and stubborn spirit of Toryism was at last yielding to the liberality of the age." As to the work of parties, it is only necessary as far as England is concerned to refer to the fight that was made by the tories against the extension of the suffrage. The tories won and then proceeded to pass what was called the "household suffrage" bill, a more radical change than the liberals had advocated. Lord Derby called it "a leap in the dark," but the tories took the leap and enacted into law the very thing that the party had fought with bitterness for a whole generation.

A similar instance in this country of a party enacting into law a policy which had been opposed by all manner of means for a whole generation is the sudden change of the republican party on the financial question. It began by demanding "hard money," then the payment of the public debt in "coin." Then it advanced to the position that the word "coin" meant gold coin only. They wanted low prices and dear money. A United States senator made speeches all over the country and exhibited himself in a suit of clothes which he took great pride in declaring had only cost \$9.00. Paper money of all kinds they denounced, calling it "rag money" or

"rag babies." The coinage of silver they cursed from morning until night every day in the year. They would have none of it. They said the coinage of silver must be stopped or the country would be ruined. As soon as that party felt itself safely in the saddle, it provided for the coinage of more silver than was ever coined before. It extended the issue of paper money by every means that it could invent, the secretary of treasury even commanding the banks to issue more paper and providing penalties by the curtailment of privileges if they did not. Now he has gone to the extreme of advocating wild cat banking, the fighting of which was the one thing more than all others that put the party in power and has kept it there. No man who knows the facts can deny that the republican party has gone to the very extreme in adopting the financial system which it fought with sarcasm, bitterness, invective and the use of money in elections for more than a quarter of a century. It has sometimes appeared to the editor of The Independent that the most effective way to secure a political victory is to fight the thing that you want and denounce its advocates as socialists, anarchists and repudiators.

Only one other instance of this kind it is necessary to mention. Chartism and Chartists are familiar words to most men. When the reform movement was at its height in England in 1838 a document was promulgated demanding certain reforms which was called a "charter" and from this document the movement took its name. The demands made in that document were denounced with all the bitter vindictiveness that was employed against populism and populists in this country. They were declared treasonable, insurrectionary and so abominable in every way that they could not be described. The mullet heads of England, whom the demanded reforms were intended to benefit, were the most vindictive of all the population, just as the same class of men in this country were the hottest in their denunciations of populism. Since that time every one of the reforms except one that the Chartists demanded have been enacted into law and the enactment of that one will not be long delayed, and they have been enacted by the very men and parties that denounced them. They were as follows:

1. Annual parliaments.
2. Universal suffrage.
3. Vote by ballot.
4. Abrogation of the property qualification for members of the house of commons.
5. Payment of members.
6. Equal electoral districts.

All these things except the payment of members of the house of commons has become part of the law of Great Britain, and the most important part of it was enacted under the tory ministry of Lord Derby, who had fought them all with the bitterness of death from the time they were first proposed.

From the moment that the republican congress provided for the coinage of silver, The Independent has been calling attention to the fact that the republican party was abandoning its financial theories and was adopting those advocated by Bryan and the populists, and it has used every means at its command to get the democratic press to inform their readers of that fact. But not one of them would do it. If from the time that congress authorized the coinage of the seigniorage and placed \$50,000,000 in the hands of McKinley which was to be so obtained to carry on the war with Spain, the democratic press had kept this matter before the people, when the last election came on, the reform forces would have gone into the fight with a whoop and hurrah that would have swept everything before them. As it is now, we will have to go through another term of wild cat banking and

**Our Special Christmas Combination.**

**WE PAY THE FREIGHT.**

For orders from customers outside of the state of Nebraska add 75c to pay part of freight charges.

Reference: First National Bank or The Independent.

75 lbs. Best Granulated Sugar.....	\$1.00
20 lbs. Choice Prunes.....	1.00
25 Bars Good Laundry Soap.....	1.00
10 lbs. High Grade Peaberry Coffee.....	2.00
10 lbs. Fancy Muer Peaches.....	1.00
2 lbs. High Grade Japan Tea.....	1.00
2 16-oz. Cans Best Baking Powder.....	.50
6 lbs. Fancy Japan Head Rice.....	.50
6 Packages 10c Corn Starch.....	.50
6 Packages 10c Gloss Starch.....	.50
3 Packages Good Soda, 16 oz.....	.25
1 lb. Pure Black Pepper.....	.25
3 lbs. Fancy Mixed Candy.....	.30
1 Bottle Lemon Extract.....	.10
1 Bottle Vanilla Extract.....	.10

All the above for.....\$10.00

Send P. O. or Express Money Order or Draft.

We will deliver the following \$10.00 combination to any town in the state of Nebraska, freight prepaid by us, any time during the month of Dec. 1902.

**BRANCH & MILLER CO.,**

Cor. 10th and P Sts. Lincoln, Neb.

WHAT WE ADVERTISE WE DO.

suffer all that that means. Wild cat banking has been tried over and over again during the last two hundred years and it always ends in one thing—disaster.

**TRIUMPHANT POPULISM**

Populism makes its way everywhere. There are no obstacles so great that it cannot overcome them. It has broken out in a radical form in Rockefeller's university at Chicago. Professor Charles Zebbin has published an extensive work, the greater part of which is devoted to the advocacy of public ownership as the only adequate and successful method of dealing with public service monopolies. Public regulation is regarded as wholly ineffective except when it is used as a threat of public ownership. In defense of this he says:

"The difference between the cheap gas of Ohio and the expensive gas of Massachusetts is due to public control. Although the people are supposed to be represented by a gas commission in Massachusetts, its failure is undoubtedly due to the limitation of its powers, so that it does not or cannot apply the alternative of public ownership which has proved so effective in Ohio."

The market is flooded with books written by eminent scholars and scientists advocating the populist demands for public ownership, election of United States senators by the people, the referendum, the income tax and other populist theories. So far, however, none of the professors has acquired courage enough to attack the money question. It is probable that we shall have to go through another experiment in wild cat banking before they come to that. Secretary Shaw recommends it and all the national bankers are demanding that the law shall be so changed that they may go off wild-cating. Issuing notes on general assets is simply the old form of wild cat banks.

The greatest disappointment some populists ever met was that the movement did not develop absolute perfection in officeholders.

The Independent is in receipt of the eleventh annual report of the charity organization society of Lincoln, Neb., together with the first number of Charities News, edited by C. E. Prevey, and published by the organization.

**SADDLES HARNESS OR HORSE COLLARS**

With this Brand on are the Best Made



ASK YOUR DEALER TO SHOW THEM BEFORE YOU BUY.

MANUFACTURED BY **HARPHAM BROS. CO. LINCOLN, NEB.**



**Nye & Buchanan Co.,**

SOUTH OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

Best possible service in all departments. Write or wire us for markets or other information. Long distance Telephone 2305

To make cows pay, use sharpies cream separators Book "Business Dairying" & Cat. 270 free W. Chester, Pa.

**PIANO Do You Want a Genuine Bargain**

Hundreds of Upright Pianos returned from renting to be disposed of at once. They include Steinways, Knabes, Fiskers, Sterlings and other well known makes. Many cannot be distinguished from new. All are offered at special prices. Some as low as \$100. Also brand new Uprights at \$125, \$135, \$150 and \$165. A fine instrument at \$200. Fully equal to many \$400 pianos. Monthly payments accepted. Freight only about \$5. Write for list and particulars. You make a great saving. Pianos warranted as represented. Illustrated Piano Book Free.

**LYON & HEALY**

100 Adams St., CHICAGO.

World's largest music house, sells Everything known in Music

**DON'T** Set Hens the Same Old Way, and let lice kill them on the nest. Tiffany's Sure Death to Lice Powder will kill all vermin and your hen will bring her brood off free from lice. Tiffany's Extra-Large Lice Killer "Liquid," guaranteed to kill all lice and mites. Instantly kills lice on coils, calves, and hogs. By using our Sprayer a very little goes a great way. Penetrates all cracks. Spray bottom of house for spider lice. It is a powerful disinfectant. \$1 per gal. can; 65c 1/2 gal. One gallon and sprayer, \$1.50. Can get it free where no agents by a little work for us. THE TIFFANY CO., Lincoln, Neb.

**Plumbing and Heating**

Estimates Furnished

**J. C. COX**

1332 O Street Lincoln, Nebraska.