

# The Independent.

- Vol. XIV.

LINCOLN, NEB., JAN. 29, 1903.

No. 36.

## WILSHIRE VS. ANDREWS

Socialist Editor Challenges Chancellor Andrews to Debate the Question of Socialism

Readers of The Independent will recollect the address on socialism delivered by Chancellor Andrews of the university of Nebraska before the state bar association, published in The Independent of January 15. His criticisms of "loose socialism" seem to have stirred up the "kangaroos," as the S. L. P. adherents call them. In a recent letter from the editor of Wilshire's Magazine, the irrepressible H. Gaylord encloses a copy of a challenge he has sent to the chancellor, saying: "Upon reading Professor Andrews' address on socialism in your paper I despatched him the enclosed letter. If he accepts it will undoubtedly result in a debate which will create great interest throughout the country." The challenge is as follows:

New York, Jan. 23, 1903.—Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews, Nebraska University, Lincoln, Neb.—Dear Sir: I have read with interest your address upon socialism delivered before the state bar association of Nebraska on January 9. As you have misrepresented the socialist position so completely I think it is only fair for you to meet me or some other socialist on the public platform and defend your arraignment of socialism, which I contend is based upon a fallacy. I will agree to go from New York to Nebraska at my own expense, hire any hall you may think suitable and pay all the expenses connected with the debate, if you will agree to meet me any time within the next two months. I shall be indebted if you will wire your answer upon receipt of this. Faithfully yours,

H. GAYLORD WILSHIRE.

Mr. Wilshire says: "I had a debate with Prof. E. R. A. Seligman of Columbia college here last Friday, which attracted an immense crowd. It was the biggest meeting of the kind ever held in New York. The audience was overwhelmingly with me, and the whole thing was a very remarkable affair from any standpoint that you may look at it, although the metropolitan press, following their usual policy of suppressing what the people want to know, carefully omitted any remarks on it, though the Herald and Times had short accounts."

Readers of The Commoner who wish to renew their subscription to that paper should take advantage of our special club rate. The Independent and The Commoner both for one year only \$1.35. Send all orders to The Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

The Independent wishes to say to those who pour out their wrath on the Mark Hanna democrats and declare that it is no use to have anything to do with such a party should remember that there are also Mark Hanna populists, Clem Deaver and his gang for instance. The only redeeming feature on the populist side was that the populists heaved Clem Deaver head first over the transom, and the democrats let Dave Hill stay in the party.

## The Best Agency

I have read your announcement in your issue of the 22d inst. of your desire to enroll 100,000 recruits to aid in the work of reform along the lines adopted by your paper, and believing it to be the best agency within my knowledge for the dissemination of such truths as will tend to arouse the people to a consciousness of the gravity of the political and social situation, and therefore the most likely means of enabling them to secure relief from the evils to which they are being subjected, I desire to enroll my name as one of your recruits for the year 1903.

I enclose \$2.00 for which please send me one copy of your paper here at North Platte, Neb., addressed to me, and one copy to William McMichael, Wellfleet, Neb.

You may send me a recruiting coupon book of five cards and detach two for these for which I send the money, and I will dispose of the rest and remit as soon as sold.

A. F. PARSONS,  
North Platte, Neb.

## RECRUITING WORK BEGINS

### The Independent's Educational Plan of Campaign for 1904 Receiving Enthusiastic Support from Every Part of the Union

## WEEKLY PAPER BEST EDUCATOR

### Majority of Voters Have Honest Motives but Many are not Properly Informed on Political Issues and the Remedies Proposed for Existing Wrongs

## WILL YOU HELP TO EDUCATE THEM?

### Recruiting Coupons Each Good for a Subscription to November 17, 1904, Only \$1.00 Each in Books of 5 or More. Send for a Recruiting Book Today.

#### Any Unsold Coupons May be Returned

The proof that the plain people in all parts of the country are intensely interested in political conditions is found in the enthusiastic response to The Independent's proposition to begin the educational campaign now. In the midst of the much vaunted prosperity is great unrest and deep concern for the future. With the immensely rich becoming immensely richer, and with the percentage of home owners rapidly decreasing the prospective opportunity for the great majority of the rising generation is not bright. Where is the injustice that results in such inequality and what is the remedy? Are the trusts and trust managers always to receive the special privileges that have made their organization and growth possible? Will they always control the law making and law interpreting powers of the land? Surely they will make their greatest effort to do so. They will buy, bribe and coerce public officials and in every way possible deceive the public in general. Plutocracy owns or controls already nearly all the metropolitan newspapers and magazines and is systematically engaged in belittling the influence and importance of those that cannot be controlled. The public official in congress or elsewhere who dares to assert his independence and undertakes to champion the cause of the people is held up to ridicule and scorn by the plutocratic press of the country. He is lied about, vilified and maligned until his influence is destroyed and perhaps his public reputation ruined forever. Only a few public men have the courage to battle against such unprincipled manipulators entrenched and armed with the power of the press as they are. Hundreds of men of national reputation have been politically destroyed because they would not bow the knee to mammon. James G. Blaine is a notable example. Although a republican he was defeated by the money power because they saw in Grover Cleveland a more pliant tool—a man subservient and obedient to their every wish. Mr. Bryan has been twice defeated by the power of money and the lack of organization and united action among the common people. If the next National Democratic convention should nominate a candidate more agreeable to the money kings of Wall Street than the republican nominee, his chances of election would be good under conditions as they have existed in the past. How long will the money of the country play foot ball with the people in that manner? Plainly until the people organize and prepare to choose between the several candidates the one who will honestly protect their interests.

Before organization must come education. The best educator in any home is a weekly newspaper honestly edited. It is read by the fireside in the evening where political passion is least aroused and where the mind is most receptive.

If you would help in the restoration of the government to the people you should enlist in The Independent's Army as a recruiting officer. If you have read it you know how well it champions the cause of the plain people. Send your order today for a book of 5 or more recruiting coupon subscription blanks. Only \$5.00 for a book of 5 recruiting coupons. Each coupon is good for one subscription to The Independent to be sent to any address until November 17, 1904, nearly 22 months from this time. No money in advance. Send your order today and pay after you have sold them. Any unsold coupons may be returned. It costs you nothing to try. Begin now. Carry the book with you and get a recruit whenever and wherever you can. Address The Independent, Lincoln, Nebraska.

#### Encouraging Words From the Battle Line

Send me a book of 25 recruiting coupons and sample copies to work with. Want to get them on the list until after the election in 1904.

O. S. WILLIAMSON,  
Beaver City, Neb.

Please send me a recruiting book of five cards and I will sell them for the love I bear you for the grand work you are doing for the people.

J. M. KNOX,  
Cambridge, Neb.

Your paper and your proposition just suits me. It is what I have wanted for years. I believe a good fight on that line will win. Send me a book of five and I will start and go my length.

A. R. CROSS,  
Lewis, Kas.

I take pleasure in writing you for a coupon book and sample copies. I have shown The Independent to three or four that talk encouragingly.

A. W. GINGERY,  
Lamar, Colo.

## THE COAL TRUST

W. R. Hearst's Efforts to Kill It—Two Prices for Coal—The "Independents" and the Trust

Editor Independent: There is no politics, now, in New York, except how to get coal. Anthracite coal is \$14 a ton in New York city, yet we in Jersey City, right across the river from New York, are paying only \$6.50 a ton; and this has been the price since the strike.

Why is coal \$6.50 in Jersey City and \$14 a ton in New York city?

There are two kinds of coal in the market, namely, five-dollar coal and fourteen-dollar coal. The latter is sometimes a little less and sometimes a little more than \$14. The five-dollar coal is what is mined and brought to market by the great coal trust, a combination of eight coal carrying railroads. This, for short, is sometimes called "company coal." This coal is \$6.50 a ton when it gets to the consumer, both in New York and Jersey City.

The fourteen-dollar coal is what is mined by the so-called "independent" operators, who own mines or operate them under a lease) and bring their coal to market over the coal trust railroads. The "independents" cannot get their coal to market without permission of the railroads and therefore they are subservient to the railroads; and there is no such thing as independent coal.

For the purpose of showing the tone of society in New York, I quote from an editorial of the Press (rep.):

"President Baer's ceremonious threat to shut off the supply of any coal dealer charging more than \$6.50 a ton, if it were put into execution, would make that price the ruling figure all over New York city in twenty-four hours. Meanwhile, in anticipation of the coal trust's enforcement of that price, the few alleged 'independent' or insurgent dealers who are charging their own prices would get rid of their coal at the best figures above \$6.50 they could get, knowing that when the coal trust commanded the dealers on penalty of loss of their supply to put the rate down to \$6.50 they, too, would have to meet the cut. We say 'alleged' insurgent dealers, because we have not believed that a single dealer is offending the coal trust or breaking one of its rules in gouging the public out of every last dollar for the commodity which it must have to keep from freezing to death.

"But President Baer's ostentatious 'threat' to discipline 'refractory' dealers is only hollow mockery of coal trust victims, as we happen to learn from a case coming to our own knowledge. We know a dealer whose relations with the officers of one of the five coal trust railroads are so fortunate that through the strike and since he has been able to buy his coal AT THE MINE; and being thus made immune from tax by the carrying and distributing departments of the extortion system, this particular dealer's customers have had their pressing wants supplied through the famine for \$6.50 a ton. Within the last few days this dealer has increased his rate day by day until it is now \$11.50 a ton (when he has the coal). We happen to know as a dead-sure fact that this dealer makes exactly the SAME PROFIT at \$11.50 a ton that he made at \$6.50 a ton. The reason he has had to raise the price \$5 is that he has had to pay that much more at the mines—to the coal trust! For the time has come when no favorites can be played, and everybody must be gouged alike."

Continuing the editor says:

"The coal trust lets the dealer make the same profit month in and month out and gathers in all the extras itself. No dealer could get a POUND of coal if the trust put him on its blacklist, as President Baer pretends to threaten to do. It is all so simple that we wonder how people can credit the queer 'explanations' that are being circulated nowadays to account for the increasing oppression of consumers and to relieve the coal trust of responsibility for the extortion which is applied more and more mercilessly as the temperature falls below the freezing point. Rational folk will meet all these inspired 'explanations' of 'insurgent' dealers with a question addressed to themselves: 'Has the