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There was an unanimous vote for bimetalism in the United States senate last week. Think of that!

The Independent acknowledges receipt from the census office, through courtesy of Congressman Shallenberger, of a copy of the census abstract.

The famous republican trust-buster bills were passed. The next week the bituminous coal operators met and formed a trust that equals any that exist.

Bryan's attitude toward the plutocratic democrats as expressed in recent interviews and speeches is eminently satisfactory to populists. As far as The Independent is concerned, it never had a doubt as to what he would do when the time for action came.

"Robust personality," is the way Harper's Weekly refers to Mr. Cleveland's physical condition brought about by his persistent refusal to take the Ginseng Chemical Company's famous preparation—"Reducto." "Robust personality" is good; very good. But the late lamented Brann would have likened it to a certain indispensable article of laundry machinery filled with the raw material out of which Swift and Armour manufacture an exceedingly valuable plant food.

The Independent acknowledges receipt of tentative articles of incorporation of the "Artluvia Cooperative Railroad, Steamboat, Manufacturing, Farming and Home-building Association," which is being boomed by our old friend, S. P. Gibson, Star, Neb. Mr. Gibson talks of beginning work as soon as a hundred million dollars is subscribed and expects to build 115,000 miles of railroad. He has certainly hitched his wagon to a star!

The two cents a hundred increase on oats, wheat and corn west of the Mississippi, made by the railroads within the last sixty days, will far more than recoup them for their expenses in buying the election of a republican legislature. Part of this money comes out of the pockets of those men in the western part of the state who concluded that "there was nothing to vote for" and stayed at home on election day.

That the daily newspapers do not want facts is shown by the way they have treated the Bryan fortune to which they have devoted so much space during the last year. Mr. Bryan made a detailed statement of his property and income and published it in The Commoner. Since that, not a daily has had a word to say about the Bryan fortune. The facts were furnished them, but as they are not in the habit of publishing facts when it can be avoided, they all shut up like clams.

WE STAND PAT

In reply to one or two populists who have come all the way over the trail, The Independent must again say what it has often said before, that its columns are an open forum for every man who believes he has a plan for the betterment of mankind, but The Independent is not responsible for the political economy of its correspondents. It holds to the same principles that it has always taught. To satisfy one, long a worker in reform, we re-iterate:

1. Price is value expressed in terms of money.

2. All money is fiat money regardless of the material upon which the edict is printed. Gold, silver and paper have all been made money by the fiat of the government, and without that fiat, whatever of value any of the three might have, it would not be "money."

3. The purchasing power of money depends upon its quantity and not on the material of which it is composed.

4. If there is a general rise in prices that simply means that money has become cheaper.

5. The populists advocated the coinage of silver, not because it was one of the God ordained money metals, but because it would increase the amount of money in circulation.

6. There is an easily comprehended distinction between "value" and "utility." To confound them produces a never-ending series of errors.

7. Value is human estimation placed upon desirable objects, the quantity of which is limited.

Whatever correspondents may argue in the columns of The Independent does not alter the position of this paper upon the above propositions. So the old populist that "came all the way over the trail, starting on the journey when the greenback party was organized," need have no fear about this paper. It is going to "stand pat."

LINCOLN DAY ORATORY

The editor of The Independent has waded through scores of columns of Lincoln day oratory. Dinners, public meetings, school exercises and sermons without number in almost every part of the union have been devoted to the celebration of the life and character of this lover of the common people, of whom, he, himself, was one. The republicans made extraordinary efforts of their party, but in all the addresses that were delivered by distinguished men of that party, never a quotation from Lincoln's letters or speeches was made, because of the impossibility of finding even a paragraph in them that would give countenance to modern republican policies. The Bryan democrats made as much of Lincoln day as the republicans, but in their addresses extensive quotations were made from Lincoln's speeches, especially from his Beardstown speech, which has so often been printed in The Independent.

Many of the problems that now press for settlement were foreseen by Lincoln, and quotations from him would exactly fit. Not only is that so in regard to imperialism, but also in relation to the tyranny and extortions of the great corporations. Lincoln had principles by which he judged every public question, and referred to them, just as the mathematician refers to his axioms when reasoning out his problems. They were not new principles discovered by himself, but principles as old as the moral law. In the main they were the Jeffersonian principles, as formulated in the Declaration of Independence and other documents of revolutionary times. Right is right and never changes, so those principles are just as applicable to government and the conduct of mankind now, as they were a hundred or a thousand years ago.

As soon as Lincoln was dead the republican party began to abandon his principles and policies and adopt others in their stead. His plea for char-

ity toward all and malice toward none, was abandoned immediately, and hatred and oppression became the policy of the party for many years. The horrors of the reconstruction period was the result of this change.

Lincoln's idea of reconstruction was contained in his letter to Michael Hahn, the first governor of Louisiana of the reconstruction period. The plan was couched in the modest terms that was natural to Lincoln and was as follows:

"Now you are about to have a convention which among other things will probably define the election franchise. I barely suggest for your private consideration whether some of the colored people may not be let in, as, for instance, the very intelligent, and especially those who have fought gallantly in our ranks. They would probably help in some trying time to come to keep the jewel of liberty within the family of freedom. But this is only a suggestion, not to the public, but to you alone."

The men of voting age in Louisiana at that time were the ex-confederates, a very few northern men and the blacks. Lincoln recommended that a very few of the black men, comprising the most intelligent, should be given the franchise along with the others. Instead of that being done, the ex-confederates were disfranchised and the ballot given to all the blacks, most of whom were in a state of savagery from their long servitude, none of whom could read or write and whose language consisted of a few of the commonest words of English used in giving instruction in the lowest grade of common labor.

Lincoln knew what would follow turning over the government of great states to a few million of black men who had been degraded to the lowest station that mankind can reach by hundreds of years of slavery. The blacks were not to blame for their condition. That had been created by white men, those of the north as well as those of the south.

If Lincoln's advice had been followed, the race question as it exists today would have been unknown. We now see looming in the future a most threatening problem, caused by the apostasy of the republican party from Lincoln's principles. Not only is this true in regard to the race problem in the south, but also in regard to abandonment of the Declaration of Independence, by which Lincoln tested every policy of government as it arose during his lifetime.

REPUBLICAN ANARCHY

Several republican legislatures are now in session and the reports that come from them indicate that the men whom the corporations have selected to make state laws are becoming more vicious, tyrannical and anarchistic than ever before. Over in Illinois the presiding officers refuse to call the yeas and nays on the steals, although the constitution of the state requires that the yeas and nays shall be called upon the application of five members. Lawyers are in doubt, at least they say they are, whether this plain violation of the constitution can be punished. Some incline to think that the speaker might be indicted for the violation of his oath to support the constitution after the legislature adjourns. Out in Colorado the house undertook to expel enough members who were legally elected to send a corporation and trust defender to the United States senate. From arbitrary and unreasonable construction of the laws by plutocratic judges, to plain and undeniable violations of constitutions has been the advance made by the republican party during the last year. In Nebraska the party has only gone far enough to exempt the corporations from paying taxes and adding to the taxes of the poor what the railroads ought to pay. By another two years it will be up to the front ranks of republican anarchy and repudiation.

ANTHRACITE HORRORS

In the better days that shall come to this nation bye and bye, when men will no longer vote for trusts because Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves, when that insanity that comes from devotion to a party shall be known no more forever, those who inhabit the earth will look with as much horror upon the cruelties now practiced upon the poor as we do upon the bloody deeds of Nero and Caligula. It is not the ignorance, the want of sufficient food and proper clothing, nor the long hours of severe labor in foul atmosphere in the dark caverns of the earth where men are sent to toil to pile up millions for the hypocrites who proclaim themselves God's agents on earth, that will most excite emotions of those who will contemplate these wrongs, but pity for the little ones, who to earn a pittance of bread are deformed and ruined for life.

When the strike was declared in the anthracite regions, the godly Baer and his colleagues undertook to freeze the women and children so as to bring the husbands and fathers into subjection. They would sell them no coal and when the shivering women and children went to the mountains of waste from the mines, called culm heaps, to pick out what little coal they could find, they were arrested and sent to jail for theft. When Francis H. Nichols went to the coal regions to describe the condition of affairs there for McClure's Magazine, he relates that he came upon a woman and a little girl who had found a sheltered place at one of these culm heaps and were picking coal. His account is as follows:

One day, in a hollow of a culm pile near Audenried, we surprised a mother with her baby and a seven-year-old daughter. The baby was rolling on a shawl, while the others worked. The girl rose quickly as she saw us, and started away, but she was so frightened that she fell back again beside her coal-scuttle. She pointed to it, half-filled, as she said, "That's all we've taken. I'll throw it back if you'll let us go."

"We haven't got no money for to pay fines with. We'll have to go to jail," pleaded the mother. It was some time before we could convince them that it was not our intention to place them under arrest.

"Why does the company guard all this coal so carefully?" I asked of the girl.

"All the people round here is striking," she replied. "So, of course, the company wants them to starve, and if they can't get coal to cook their food with, they will starve faster."

Little boys by the thousand work in the breakers and they are constantly watched by a slave driver who carries a whip in his hand which he applies whenever he thinks one of them is not working up to his full capacity. The little girls work in the silk mills which have been established near the mines and get the benefit of cheap child labor. Their ages vary from nine to sixteen years, 90 per cent of whom he declares are under thirteen years old. The following is a case among the girls which Mr. Nichols says was related to him by one of the girls. This little girl was employed to operate a treadle and the foreman of her union made this statement:

"She had to work all day long, and as she was growing pretty fast, she began to get kind of crippled-like. She was lame in one leg, and she was lop-sided, one shoulder being higher than the other. By and by she got so bad that she had to lay off for a week and go to bed. While she was away the boss hired a big boy to work the treadle, and paid him, of course, considerable more than she was getting. But when she came back to work, he fired the boy and put her on the treadle again. Our grievance committee waited on the boss and asked him polite, as a favor, to give her an easier job, because she was getting deformed. But he said that he wouldn't have no interference with his business."

Mr. Nichols says that the nine counties in Pennsylvania where hard coal