

DEBATES

The Independent is pleased to note the great interest manifested everywhere over questions of public importance. During the past two months the associate editor has been kept busy in his spare moments—and some not so “spare”—hunting up books, pamphlets and papers for the benefit of persons who had agreed to enter joint debates on public questions and who wished to study up and be ready. These inquiries have come from all parts of the United States.

Mr. C. M. Clark of Lincoln has suggested that a number of Lincoln people might profitably spend a few nights discussing the following:

“Organized Labor and Organized Capital, with strikes and lockouts, vs. An Organized People, with concession, compromise and arbitration. An attempt to draw a line between the good and the evil of unions and trusts in industrial and commercial affairs, of parties and factions in politics or public affairs, of sects and churches in religion and morals.”

Has any reader of The Independent a suggestion to make along this line?

Admiral Crowninshield has proved that the estimates placed upon his character by the people generally and always held by The Independent were correct. To the everlasting shame and disgrace of the United States navy he organized a clique among the officers to disgrace one of the noblest and bravest men in the service and the Sampson-Schley difficulty was the result. That Crowninshield was an upstart and a martinet every one knew who ever had the misfortune to come in contact with him. He has now asked to be placed on the retired list because Dewey would not give him the vessel that he wanted as a flagship to parade about the Mediterranean sea in and show off his dignity and importance. His request was immediately granted and the active force of the navy is forever rid of one of the most arrogant, inefficient, mischief-making men who ever held such rank. His salary on the retired list will be something over \$5,000 a year. The country can well afford to pay that much to get rid of him.

It is impossible for The Independent to look upon the act of Sears and the other republicans who voted with the fusionists to tax railroad property the same as other property is taxed as an honorable and meritorious act. In doing so they voted against the wishes of the men who furnished the funds and secured their election. Instead of being honorable it was base ingratitude. If those gentlemen intended to vote for the equal taxation of railroad property, and that was the question before the people in the last election, they should not have connected themselves with a party that was opposed to it and accepted of the aid that party gave them and then refused to carry out the known will of those who elected them. There is nothing honorable in such a course of action, but everything dishonorable.

The dailies have been amusing the mullet heads with a great deal of talk about an extra session of the United States senate, as if that were a wonderful thing. Extra sessions of the senate are very common, there is always one the next year after a presidential election, principally for confirming the new members of the cabinet. The extra session called by the president is nothing extraordinary at all.

The tricks that the republicans have been trying are many and various. Quay's trick to beat trust legislation with the statehood bill, which The Independent called attention to before he had been playing it for a week, was a sort of gold brick performance. Another of the like was played by a banker in the Chicago Record-Herald. He came out as an opponent of the Aldrich bill and said bankers would have none of it. Then he gave a lot of figures to show that there was nothing in it for the banking fraternity. He gave the rate of interest that bankers would receive on deposits and the reserves they would have to keep, to show that they would be losers. In his calculation he did not figure the interest on the bonds deposited at all. The poor republican dupes who read his effusion no doubt came to the conclusion that there was no special privilege in that bill for bankers.

One thing is becoming very evident

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and that is that the republican leaders are determined to have both candidates for the presidency of the plutocratic brand. Some of the republican dailies are devoting whole pages to boosting Judge Parker of New York as the democratic candidate. They give pictures of him, of his mother, his wife, his daughter, his grand children and his residence. They tell of his farm, his polled red cattle and the number of acres of land that he cultivates. They give columns to a history of his life, his wonderful learning and his popularity as a judge. According to these republican dailies, Judge Parker is an ideal presidential candidate from every point of view. As Judge Parker has never in all his life said a word against the trusts, never talked about “shackling cunning,” it may be that the republican leaders have come to the conclusion that they prefer him to the strenuous Teddy.

The conviction of Mrs. Lillie of murder in the first degree at David City, Neb., is an astonishment to the people of the state. There must have been something in the evidence not reported in the papers or no jury would have found a verdict of guilty. That she dealt in options on the board of trade seems to be the main reason of her sad plight.

In abandoning the principles which were universally taught to the young fifty years ago and instead of presenting them the highest ideals of life, which is to live uprightly and esteem that which is of good report, we have taught them that the greatest thing in life is the possession of money. The consequence is that the millions who can never hope to become millionaires by the ordinary methods, have taken to gambling. Every city in the union is crowded with pool rooms and policy shops and they are scattered through all the country, while “get-rich-quick” concerns have hundreds of thousands of patrons, including, so the authorities say, many ministers. Chicago and other cities are so given over to gambling among both the rich and the poor that the crimes resulting from it are more numerous than was ever known in all the history of the world before.

Guarantee companies furnishing bonds to young men in places of trust have been heavy losers. Scores of trusted employes who have served faithfully for years have been demoralized and taken money that did not belong to them to gamble with. There is a saturnalia of debauchery all over the country consequent upon the enthronement of Mammon. “Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.”

Rev. Alexander F. Irvine has been dismissed from the pastorate of the Plymouth Congregational church at New Haven, Conn., because Bryan, on one of his eastern visits in company with a gentleman of that city called upon him. The two gentlemen drove to the residence of the minister and several members of Plymouth church saw them. A leading member of the church told Mr. Irvine the next day that the church would not stand the meeting with Bryan and so the pastor had to leave. It is said that Mr. Irvine will establish a “People's Church” and begin his administration May 1. This is another evidence of the degeneration caused by the de-thronement of the God our fathers worshipped and the installment in his stead of Mammon.

The abolishment of passes because of the Elkins bill has turned out just as The Independent predicted. A man prominent in the republican party and a heavy stock shipper reports that when he applied for the usual passes he was refused, but was referred to the legal department, where he got a pass not only for himself, but for two friends. No passes will be given by the transportation departments hereafter. All that business will be turned over to the legal departments of the roads.

Ithaca, N. Y., the other day voted almost unanimously for the municipal ownership of water works, there being only 30 votes in the negative in the whole city. That city, which has looked upon populism as being the most dangerous thing that ever threatened civilization, has been forced to adopt that much of it. It is only a beginning. After a while they will vote for the whole thing.

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Office of Auditor of Public Accounts

Lincoln, February 1st, 1903.

It is hereby certified, That the Union Mutual Life Insurance company of Portland, in the state of Maine has complied with the insurance law of this state, applicable to such companies and is therefore authorized to continue the business of Life insurance in this state for the current year ending January 31st, 1904.

Summary of report filed for the year ending December 31st, 1902.

INCOME	
Premiums	\$1,848,279.48
All other sources	396,431.76
Total	\$2,244,711.24
DISBURSEMENTS	
Paid policy holders	980,205.87
All other payments	697,032.53
Total	\$1,677,238.40
Admitted assets	\$9,649,367.50
LIABILITIES	
Net reserve	8,841,919.00
Net policy claims, and matured installment policies not yet due	122,322.69
All other liabilities	9,413.23
Total	8,973,654.92
Surplus beyond capital stock & other liabilities	675,712.58
Total	\$9,649,367.50

Witness my hand and the seal of the auditor of public accounts the day and year first above written.
Charles Weston,
Auditor of Public Accounts.
J. L. Pierce, Deputy.

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