

## Independent School of Political Economy

The Independent School of Political Economy starts off with students in nine different states: Washington, Minnesota, Illinois (2), Indiana, Tennessee, Missouri, Nebraska (4), New York, and Michigan. Under the contemplated plan (which is not completed as to details) the work will go right along whether there be ten or ten thousand who avail themselves of the opportunity.

This in substance will be the plan: All books will be listed at a selling price, which will include postage or express prepaid to borrower. The borrower, whether a class or an individual, will send the full amount of selling price of book or books wanted, which will be regarded as a deposit. He will be entitled to retain the book full thirty days. Upon its return (express or postage prepaid by him) to the school, or to some other member upon order from the director, he will be entitled to have refunded 90 per cent of the deposit. In other words, the fee for reading any book will be one-tenth of the selling price of the book, plus postage in returning it. Upon return of the book, the borrower's deposit will be returned to him in cash, or it may be left as deposit for the borrowing of a second book, and so on.

The school is not instituted as a money-making concern, so when a book has been borrowed ten times it will have been fully paid for, and no further fee for reading it will be charged, unless it should need re-binding. These free books will then be loaned to readers of The Independent who are financially unable to pay even a small fee.

A list of recommended books is now in course of preparation and will probably be ready for announcement in two weeks. For readers who desire to begin right now, we can supply "The Science of Money" by Alexander Del Mar; the deposit will be \$1; and 90 cents will be refunded when the book is returned at the end of thirty days; we pay postage to the borrower, the borrower pays postage back to us. Hence, you can read this valuable work for something like 20 cents, and at the same time help some poorer person to read it later without cost.

Also, for three one-cent stamps you may have a copy of the extra number of the American Federationist, an 80-page pamphlet giving valuable information concerning direct legislation. This need not be returned.

Also, for city students, Prof. Frank Parsons' "The City for the People," the best book ever published on public ownership, direct legislation, home rule, etc. Deposit, \$1.

The following letters may be helpful to those who have been thinking of joining:

**EAGER TO STUDY THE TRUTH.**  
Editor Independent: I am greatly in favor of the plan that is left for us to decide on the study of political economy. I am eager to study the truth and discussions on economic equities, and am ready to buy and retain such books as The Independent proclaims beneficial to the public. Hope that the majority of its readers will realize the good to be derived from such books.

ALFRED HALLMAN,  
Granite Falls, Wash.

**"PUT MY NAME DOWN."**  
Editor Independent: I do not expect to be able to raise the fees necessary to keep along regularly in the Independent School of Political Economy, but you may put my name down for a two or three months' starter. By that time it will be on its legs and will never miss me if I drop out.

H. ELLINGSTON,  
Minnehaha, Minn.

(As the plan will probably be developed, no one will be required to pay any fees regularly. In fact, there will be none except to cover wear of the books. Each book borrower will be required to deposit a sum sufficient to cover the price of the book he borrows, and when the same is returned uninjured, save for ordinary wear, the deposit will be refunded, less a small sum (10 per cent) to cover wear. If the book is never returned, of course, it is paid for and that ends the transaction.—The Director.)

**"PLEASE COUNT ME IN."**  
Editor Independent: Please count me in on a course of study in political economy. Am glad to get the chance to gain some insight to what is one of the essential sciences of government. Political economy is one of the most profound philosophies of the age. In proportion as the citizen is

familiar with its science, in just that proportion will he know the full import of freedom.

PERRY D. PLAIN,  
Atwater, Ill.

**IS NEARER A POPULIST.**  
Editor Independent: I would like to have a chance at the traveling library of books—but I don't know of any other subscribers here. If there are any and you will give me their names, I will see them and organize. Would be glad to get a lot of subscribers for The Independent, but don't have a chance to work at it. I am an old-time republican, but supported Mr. Bryan both campaigns, and since reading The Independent I believe I am nearer a pop than a democrat.

HOWARD FIELDS,  
Bedford, Ind.  
(No one is barred from borrowing books because he is the only subscriber at a given place. Isolated subscribers have the same rights as any others. But where several can organize and hold stated meetings, the study can be made much more pleasant and profitable.—The Director.)

**FAVORS THE PLAN.**  
Editor Independent: I am in favor of the establishment of the Independent School of Political Economy, as it will give every one an opportunity of becoming well informed on political questions of great importance at merely a nominal rental for the books.

H. C. DWIGGINS,  
Petersburg, Tenn.  
**IDEAS CONFUSED AND HAZY.**  
Editor Independent: I want to read the best books on political economy, as it is a subject on which I must confess my ideas are confused and hazy, and I want to take advantage of the invitation of The Independent.

JOHN D. EDWARDS,  
Baden Station, St. Louis, Mo.  
**"COUNT ME."**  
Editor Independent: Count me as in favor of your traveling library. I always have been and am still a democrat, but think you have the best paper on earth; not because it always agrees with me, but because you are honest.

FRANK E. DOWD,  
Bloomington, Neb.  
**"HOW CAN I GET BOOKS?"**  
Editor Independent: Find stamp enclosed to inform me how I can get books on political economy.

W. S. DEAN,  
Delhi, N. Y.  
(Every subscriber of The Independent can become a member of the Independent School of Political Economy without charge. He is entitled to draw books from the traveling library by complying with the rules.—The Director.)

**TRADE UNIONISM.**  
Editor Independent: You ask your readers what they think of the plan of starting a reading club in political economy. I think it would be a good thing; would certainly avail myself of the chance of joining, if you succeed in getting it started. I do not know as I could get a class for you or not. Probably not. There may be some people in this town who are interested enough in the great comedy-tragedy, or tragedy-comedy (whichever it is) of human life, to take such a course as you would mark out, but I do not know them.

There are those who object plenty to affairs as they are—object until one would think they would break away from the old parties, but my—

We are at present deep in the throes of trade unionism in this town. Did Lincoln ever get a real, solar plexus blow from trades unions? I mean were the laborers of Lincoln ever so well organized that they "run things"? If not, you have missed the greatest opportunity of your life to learn lots.

I hope you may be able to name such prices on the books you send that I may find myself able to purchase several.

MRS. FANNIE GRAY WHEELER,  
Bloomington, Ill.  
(Trade unionism is growing very fast in this city. A call is issued to organize the retail clerks March 17. The waiters' union is now on a strike and restaurants are tied up. Doubtless much inconvenience may at times result from this movement, but finally something will be evolved which will result in permanent benefit to the people who toil.—The Director.)

**A MID-ROAD POPULIST.**  
Editor Independent: I am ready to take part in the Independent

## SEED CORN

All the leading and best varieties of choice selected, thoroughly tested seed corn, which have yielded 75 to 215 bushels per acre. Costs Only 25c Per Acre for Seed. Large descriptive catalogue of Corn and all kinds of Farm and Garden Seed mailed free if you mention this paper. IOWA SEED CO., DES MOINES, IOWA.

## \$25.00 to California.

That is the Rock Island's rate from Lincoln. In effect daily, February 15 to April 30. Tickets are good in tourist sleeping cars, which the Rock Island runs every day in the week through to Los Angeles and San Francisco. These cars make quicker time to Southern California than similar cars over any other line. Cars are operated over both the "Scenic" and "Southern" lines. Folder giving full information mailed on request.



If you are going to California, GO NOW. After May it will cost you nearly \$20 more than at present. Low rates to Montana, Idaho, Utah and Puget Sound are also offered by the Rock Island. See nearest Rock Island ticket agent, or, if you prefer, write the undersigned.

F. H. Barnes, C. P. A.  
1045 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

School of Political Economy and can spare ten cents a month for reading the best political books. I would like to give more money towards the school, but it is impossible for me to do so at the present time. Send the paper and I will renew as soon as possible.

The voters of this vicinity are Cleveland democrats and Hanna republicans. There are no populists in this county.

E. J. PAYNE, Mid-road Pop.  
R. F. D. 1, Clayton, Mich.

**"A HARD STUDENT."**  
Editor Independent: I think your than anxious to join your Independent School of Political Economy. In my poor way I am a hard student of economy, reading, criticising and writing down my own opinions (not for publication).

I will do anything in my power to help the thing along; first for myself, for I believe I have tasted of knowledge and therefore hunger for more; second, because I believe our cause of reform would be won if we could get each individual to think even a little for himself. E. W. FERGUSON, Jr.  
Operator of "Push Farm,"  
R. F. D. 1, Hartington, Neb.

Editor Independent: Please send me your plans about taking up the study of political economy.

F. E. DODSON,  
Trenton, Neb.

**HOPES FOR SUCCESS.**  
Editor Independent: I think your plan of an Independent School of Political Economy all right. I favor it greatly and I shall try to organize all the local classes in Keya Paha county. Since Bryan made his appeal to the anti-reorganizers to start democratic clubs, I have been looking to see what the democrats would do here; but they have made no attempt to do anything yet. Our people seem to be dead since the democrats have treated us so badly in local politics; but still if we do not try, nothing will be accomplished; and I will make another effort, hoping we will have the success that we had in the farmers' alliance in 1888-1890.

GEORGE FESSANT,  
Springview, Neb.

## HARDY'S COLUMN

Our state lawmakers and tax money investors should look ahead a little. All the present railroads are going to become nearly worthless when the new system of electric power is about to be put into use. The state and local authorities should at once begin planning to build and run the electric roads. If a charter is given for a company to build a new road the charter should expire at the end of twenty years. If possible, the Platte river power should be utilized to generate electricity. There is already quite a water power at Kearney. If we could utilize a small proportion of our water power we could run railroads for one-half what they are run for now. The electric system would not only be cheaper, but much safer. One train on a certain section would cut off all other trains from running on that section until the stretch was clear. No train would have the power to run into another train. The water power at Kearney and Fremont could be made to run all the roads in the state.

The man who loses money gambling should not have it back. The winner should be made to pay it over to the state authorities and it should be put

into the school fund the same as fines and license money. Both gamblers are equally guilty and should be made to contribute to the school fund. A high court has just decided that lottery tickets cannot be sent by express or by mail.

The Fifty-seventh congress has adjourned after spending over a billion and a half. The tariff money must be used up is the republican cry.

Neither does state or national government object to owning canals, but they do not dare to own a railroad. Why may they not own telegraph wires as safely as mail bags?

Once in a while good things start in the east as much for the benefit of the west as for selfish home interest. Professors of Harvard and Yale have commenced to kick the football game instead of kicking the ball and the players. We all know that deaths and life injuries have gradually increased on the gridiron. There is but little difference between football games, prize fights and duels.

A number of Indians are now employed by the Elkhorn company, shoveling coal and dirt. Good.

The window glass trust has not taken in the whole country yet. There are independent factories that punch the trusts. A glass factory is not an expensive plant; there are more than a dozen of them standing idle owned or rented by the trust and new ones are being built. There is no justice in the law that protects the manufacturer in charging us a higher price than he does the Canadians. The Canadian tariff is paid and then it is sold for less money than here.

It is certainly very appropriate for Nebraska farmers to sing Hail Columbia, for the middle of March never looked more promising than now. Wheat never looked better. A very little rain in April or May will supply all the moisture needed for a full crop. The ground is thoroughly soaked and corn will have a good start.

It takes our Nebraska legislature and our Washington congress a long while to do nothing. The president is splitting his party from one end to the other as badly as Bryan is splitting his. He can no more lead Rockefeller and Pierpont Morgan than Bryan can lead Cleveland up Hill.

The isthmian canal treaty has been ratified by the senate, but Cuba and the Philippine islands have to stand out in the cold. Sugar can't come in free with coal and beef.

H. W. HARDY.  
Statistics from the Nebraska penitentiary show there have been 3,997 convicts received since the penitentiary was erected. Of these 3,123 were sentenced for larceny—that is, for crimes where they sought to get something for nothing, exclusive of gambling; 783 received sentence for assault, two for child stealing, forty-four for arson, three for gambling, two for blackmail and the rest for scattering and less important offenses.

"I have always believed in an income tax, and have thought that the decision of our supreme court against the constitutionality of such a tax was one of the most unfortunate occurrences of the age. We should have a tax on all incomes, large or small, exempting a moderate amount of property from execution and levy."—President Ingalls of the Big 4 R'y.