

MR. FREEMAN OTIS WILLEY

Very often a case is lost because the contestant proved too much. That is the way with the argument of Freeman Otis Willey who writes a book for the plutocratic propaganda so often mentioned in The Independent. He says:

"If you consider the matter carefully, you will not doubt that, as often as it can be shown that a corporation, or the stockholders of a corporation, have acted in an oppressive way, just as often can it be shown that an equal number of non-chartered concerns, and individuals not connected with corporations, have acted in the same manner."

Now this book is written to combat public ownership and socialism, and by this argument he proves the case for the socialists. That is exactly what they say. Private ownership of anything is oppressive and results in great wrongs. There are the two things: Individual ownership and corporation ownership. Mr. Wiley says one is just as bad as the other. It therefore follows that the only escape is socialism.

If the National Economic League can't do better than that they have just as well quit. They can't defend trusts and corporations in that way. They are furnishing the socialists with new ammunition. That is, however, aside from the facts. It is a bald statement without any attempt at proof. Simply a plutocratic assumption which the people are expected to swallow without stopping to taste it. When did a private individual raise the price of wire nails 200 per cent? When did a private individual more than double the cost of glass? When did an individual coal miner or owner produce a coal famine and double the price of coal? These things and thousands more like them have been done by corporations. We wait for Mr. Wiley to cite cases in which individuals ever did such things.

That is the sort of literature with which the plutocrats are flooding the country. What are reformers doing to counteract it?

Not long since The Independent printed a report from a minister concerning the awful degradation and moral foulness of some of the New England villages. Now the same report comes from England. In whatever country Mammon is worshipped the same results follow. The race cannot advance and must degenerate whenever the gathering of money is considered the highest ideal to which man can aspire. Love of country, love of home, the desire to be useful, must be the ideals instead of the gathering of millions. Public robbers must not be held up to the youth of the land as the highest type and the ones after which the youth should pattern. The Rockefellers and Morgans must be dethroned and in their stead must be installed those who have not devoted their lives to robbery and extortion, or the conditions reported in the New England villages and in England will spread all over the land.

NEBRASKA ECONOMISTS

Nebraska is generously represented in the list of "editorial associates and contributors" of the National Economic League, whose avowed object is—

"To instruct the people that if we are to continue to lead in the world's industries and keep American labor and capital remuneratively employed, it must be through the organization of industry into LARGE UNITS, directed by the best talent."

Which, translated into the vernacular, means "trusts, directed by Morgans and Rockefellers."

This is the league whose editorial manager, Mr. Mattox, wrote to a Missouri banker some time ago that—

"Only by the literature that was sent out by the republican party and auxiliary organizations edu-

cating them (the people) to the danger of the election of Mr. Bryan, was the country saved from that disaster."

Nebraska is represented in the league by the following Nebraskans and former residents as "associate editors and contributors":

Geo. E. MacLean, president state university of Iowa, formerly chancellor of the University of Nebraska.

Gen. Charles F. Manderson, solicitor B. & M. R. R.

W. S. Poppleton, attorney, Omaha. Francis A. Brogan, attorney, Omaha.

Those acquainted with MacLean and Manderson, of course, understand why they should ally themselves with an organization like the league, but the question naturally arises, Why is W. S. Poppleton training with a crowd that put forth such heroic efforts to "save" the country from the "disaster" of electing Mr. Bryan?

As much editorial matter appears in The Independent each week as in the six editions of any of the dailies, and the topics discussed are often a week or ten days ahead of the dailies.

ROSEWATER FREAKS OF MIND

In the Bee of March 17, Mr. Rosewater says: "If any man or set of men should deliberately concoct a scheme to set the town on fire or blow up its public buildings with dynamite, the community would rise up as one man to have them thrown into prison or lynched, but when men set deliberately to work to undermine and destroy self-government, the people tamely allow them to proceed with their devilish work. And yet this is precisely what has been going on at Lincoln for the last sixty days under the leadership of John N. Baldwin, the head pusher of the most rotten lobby that has ever infested the state capitol."

In The Independent a short time ago there appeared an article entitled "Freaks of the Mind," which has occasioned some comment. Does it not appear strange to the ordinary, sane man that after Mr. Rosewater succeeded in electing this republican legislature that he should talk in that manner? He knew that the railroads named the candidates, that they paid most of the campaign expenses, that John N. Baldwin was their representative and practical manager of the campaign and what things that it was proposed to do if the republicans succeeded and yet he supported Mr. Baldwin and the candidates that he had selected. He could have as easily prevented the election of a republican legislature as he did that of Dave Mercer to congress. He could have helped the citizens of Nebraska choose a legislature to whom the railroads would have concluded that it would have been no use to send a lobby, that would have enacted laws forcing the railroads to pay their just share of taxes and have given the state an honest and economical government as had been done from 1896 to 1900. But he chose to support the candidates and the party that all men knew would do just what they have done if they were elected. Now he writes a column of the same kind as appears at the head of this article denouncing them. Would not sanity have directed that it was better to defeat this crowd than to elect them and afterwards indulge in ineffective denunciation of them.

That J. Pierpont Morgan is a low down perjurer has been well established during the last few weeks. He went before the taxing authorities and solemnly swore that he owned only \$400,000 worth of personal property. It now turns out that he has \$7,000,000 worth of paintings, statuary and other works of art. Men of that detestible character are the men who dominate the republican party and to a large extent the church. Morgan is a shining light in the Protestant Epis-

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A Genuine All Wool Melton Suit at \$6.75.
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copal church. When such facts as these are made known all over the land is it any wonder that there is demoralization and degeneration everywhere? Why is not Morgan prosecuted for perjury like any other criminal? Because the courts and administrators of the law are worshippers of Mammon and they will not bring an accusation against one of the chief votaries of their god.

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Those subscribers to The Independent who are from a year to three years delinquent for subscription should now show their appreciation of the generous treatment they have received by sending in the amount due without longer delay. Everyone knows that The Independent has been building during the past year. It has taken more money than anticipated and we are just now extremely short of cash. We do not want to embarrass you by sending the account to some collector in your locality, but unless those who are delinquent pay promptly we shall be compelled to do so. In the past we have always been generous in extending time and except for the actual need of funds would not be so insistent for prompt payment now.

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In the courts the railroads always seem to have a sure thing. If they want an injunction against the workmen that injunction never fails to appear upon request. The courts enjoin the workmen from walking on the highway, from listening to a sermon, from quitting work, from talking, from giving charity or anything else that the roads ask them to enjoin. Now the injunction goes outside of the employes' ranks and for the first

time one has been issued forbidding certain men to sell unused portions of railroad tickets. The managers of the roads sometimes have trouble with legislative bodies, but they never have any trouble with the courts. When they want a decision that a railroad is private property and that the farmers can't put up an elevator near the tracks, then they get one of that kind. When they want a decision that a railroad is a "public" highway and that all the laws applying to public highways applies to the roads, they get that kind of a decision. When it comes to the railroads and the courts it is: "You take the buzzard and I take the turkey, or I take the turkey and you take the buzzard," every time. When the railroads are in a case, the courts never talk turkey at all.

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Some of the absurdities of the gold standard spell-binders were about as glaring, as the human mind could conceive, as, for instance, "intrinsic value" and "dear money and high prices." But Mr. Freeman Otis Willey has outdone the wildest republican spell-binder who ever roamed over the rural districts of Ohio. He says that the Pilgrim and Puritan colonies which settled in America were corporations just like the steel trust and Baer's coal combination. Then he remarks: "There would have been a great opportunity for an anti-monopolist to characterize the Pilgrims and Puritans and pronounce their immortal voyage a money-hunting scheme." No doubt the mullet heads who believed that we could only prosper as the volume of money was decreased will believe this just as readily as they did the big-mouthed republican spell-binders.