

The Nebraska Independent

Lincoln, Nebraska.

LIBERTY BUILDING. 1328 O STREET

Entered according to Act of Congress of March 3, 1879, at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.
FOURTEENTH YEAR.

\$1.00 PER YEAR

When making remittances do not leave money with news agencies, postmasters, etc., to be forwarded by them. They frequently forget or remit a different amount than was left with them, and the subscriber fails to get proper credit.

Address all communications, and make all drafts, money orders, etc., payable to

The Nebraska Independent,
Lincoln, Neb.

Anonymous communications will not be noticed. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned.

William Russell, La Gloria, Cuba, has the editor's thanks for a copy of Clarence S. Darrow's "Realism in Literature and Art," one of Kerr's pocket library series.

The Industrial Tribune announces that on the 28th ult. it moved into its new home in Corona, Long Island, and asks exchanges to change address to that place.

The Chicago Record-Herald says that it knows for a "certainty" that news from the Philippines was censored and suppressed. The Independent told its readers that fact three years ago.

Ground rent is a value created by the community. So is the value of everything else. Without the "community" or population there would be no values. If the community has the right to make common property of ground rent, why not of every other value that the community creates?

J. Pierpont Morgan has offered a reward of \$500 to any one who will smash a camera taking a snap shot of him. Any man who has had a chance to study his countenance will express no wonder that Morgan will be willing to pay most any price to keep the people generally from having a look at it in a photograph.

Professor Cairnes summed up the populist view of the writers on political economy in the following words: "Ricardo supplied the backbone of the science; but it is not less certain that the limbs and joints, the muscular developments—all that renders political economy a complete and organized body of knowledge—have been the work of Mill."

The face value of the stock issued by the authority of the letters of marque of the state of New Jersey is a little over \$73,000,000,000. To state that there is to be no hereafter to a system like that, or to believe that it will not end in the wreck of thousands, is to believe that the trusts are endowed with powers equal to that of the Deity itself.

General Funston and Secretary Root engaged in a little farce last week for the general amusement of the American public. Funston demanded a court of inquiry to investigate his performances in the Philippines and Root gravely replied it was not necessary. So the kettle has whitewashed the pot and the farce ended in general applause—by the parties engaged in it.

Another demonstration that has been given of the correctness of the position taken by the populists and Bryan democrats, in regard to silver, is the continued rise in price since the Philippine bill was passed authorizing the government to purchase 20,000,000 ounces for the coinage of pesos. Some of the gold dailies begin to fear that silver will go above 64 cents an ounce and in that case the pesos would be hoarded, for the metal in them would be worth more than their face value. But they needn't fret on that account. Whatever ratio is "fixed" by the European governments in connection with the United States, as is contemplated, will "fix" the price also. The Rothschilds and their partners are now going to do what they swore never could be done, fix the value of silver by legislative enactment. In the prospect of those enactments, and before the commission meets to prepare the way for them, silver rises.

GEN. MILES' REPORT

The demand that the report of General Miles on the Philippines should be given to the public became so universal that the war department was forced to heed it, but only a part of it was given out. It has created a furor from one end of the country to the other. Replies had been prepared beforehand by the government which were sent out with it, so as to lessen as far as possible its effect. General Miles says:

"I do not think there is today a people so sorely afflicted as the 8,000,000 of inhabitants of this (Philippine) archipelago. Their country has been devastated by war. In some places locusts have destroyed the crops. Pestilence has prevailed, resulting in the reported death of nearly 75,000 people, while it is estimated that the number not reported is fully as large."

The general tells how the people everywhere appealed to him and how he issued an order to the commanding general in the Philippines to stop all further cruelties. The general gives names, dates and places where barbarities had been practiced upon the people, prisoners murdered, population forced into reconcentration camps, 600 being jammed into one building, where many died from suffocation and other things of like nature.

General Davis, judge advocate general, in the reply prepared and given to the public along with General Miles' report, does not deny the charges, but lays all the blame on the volunteers. General Davis says that investigation have been made in these cases, but they are especially difficult because the incidents complained of were not made known at the time, and officers and soldiers of the volunteer army who have been named have been discharged.

General Miles directs attention to the acts of reconcentration by General Bell, and claims that they were in direct violation of the law. He says the law was also violated in handling and buying large quantities of rice, which was sold at a profit. The people who were in the reconcentration camp were, says General Miles, "considered prisoners of war, but were compelled to buy food from those who held them at a large profit."

General Miles characterizes this as unprecedented. He speaks of the magnitude of the transaction, which involved 21,000,000 pounds of rice and other supplies at a cost of \$306,320. He says that "an extraordinary feature of this transaction" is that the action was disapproved by a division commander, who assumed command, and who turned the matter over to the civil authorities.

This report came like a clap of thunder from a clear sky. People have long suspected such things, but the close censorship that the secretary of war has ordered has prevented the people from knowing the facts.

ON THE ROAD TO RUIN

If ever a country was on the road to ruin, that country is England. Statistics just published show that the drink bill of England in 1902 amounted to the appalling sum of \$895,000,000, or an average of about \$25 per capita.

The money England spends annually for drink is far in excess of the annual expenditure for all government purposes or for all the rents for all the houses and farms, or for all religious, educational and philanthropic objects combined, or for the purchase of more than any one kind of food or clothing considered to be articles of absolute necessity.

There is no show at all for remedial legislation. The tory party has filled the upper house with brewers, who have been made peers on account of their enormous donations to the campaign fund of the tory party. There they sit and will put a veto upon any bill passed by the house that has a tendency to curtail the quantity of liquor consumed in the United Kingdom. The tory party in England is kept in power in the same way that the republican party is in this country, namely, by the collection and expenditure of an enormous corruption fund.

THE PEOPLES PARTY

There is much said about the inexorable laws of political economy, especially in the plutocratic papers. That there are such laws over which parliaments and legislative bodies have no control is certain. But when one comes to examine them it is found that they all relate to production of wealth. When we come to the distribution of wealth we enter another field. The production of wealth is governed by physical laws which no man can evade, but distribution is a matter of human arrangement over which

Men's Fine Suits

AT \$7.75

Look in Our Catalog on Page 4

It's the day of good merchandise. Nobody is looking for poor merchandise at any price. The laboring man of to-day is buying better clothes than the capitalist in '93. Some manufacturers are plugging away, making up shoddy clothes with shoddy trimmings, using unskilled labor and turning out shoddy clothes. Some merchants are still selling this class of merchandise. This store is buying and selling the best goods that money can buy. The suit that we are showing on page 4 of our men's catalog, is made of honest cloth, is cut tight in the very latest style, and is marked at a price which guarantees you the best value for that price to be had anywhere. \$7.75 worth \$10.00.

Nebraska Clothing Co

OMAHA

society has supreme control. The whole thought of the world is directed to the production of wealth. Its distribution has been left to chance and the greed of mankind. This is the particular field of political economy.

YEP, THAT'S SO

The price of silver continues to advance, the highest quotation up to this writing being a small fraction less than 55 cents an ounce. One of the factors in the rise has just been discovered. The Rothschilds are interested in the United Metals Selling company and the Guggenheim smelting syndicate, owning a very large, if not a controlling interest in both those companies. The two companies control about all the uncoined silver in the world. When it was for the interest of the House of Rothschilds to depress the price of silver, every mullet head in the United States was shouting "Down with silver." Now that the House of Rothschilds is interested on the other side of the market, they all rejoice that the price of silver goes up. Of such stuff is the American mullet head made.

The truth about the matter is that some six months ago the Rothschilds and others of that ilk having found out that they could not work their gold standard idea without the destruction of the Asiatic trade, concluded to change their policy and their obedient servants on this side of the water were quick to obey orders. Congress reversed itself and appointed a commission to go to Europe to "fix" the price of silver, where everything has been arranged for their coming. The Rothschilds were quick to get on the other side of the market. In 1893 when the Rothschilds said that silver must be eliminated from the money of the world, every mullet head answered back: "Yep, that's so." Now that they say that silver must remain as part of the monetary system of the world these same mullet heads are just as quick to answer: "Yep, that's so."

THE TRUSTS

In his testimony before the interstate commerce commission last week in answer to a question about the wholesale price of coal at tide water, President Baer said: "On May 1, I am going to advance the price 10 cents and try to work it up to \$5.00." In answer to another question, he said: "I fixed the price and compelled the other dealers to do the same." So it seems that the people are to be forced to pay as much or more for coal next year than they did last.

The beef trust has arbitrarily made another advance in meats. Steaks are now sold in the Chicago market for 22 and 23 cents a pound. There has been an advance in the wholesale price of 2 cents a pound added to the several recent advances. Chickens sell

at 18 to 19 cents a pound. Pork is 12 and mutton chops 16 cents.

Every man will naturally inquire what is being done in opposition to the extortions of the coal, beef and other trusts. Many hundred thousand wage-workers are out on strikes, trying to force employers to raise wages to a point that will equalize this arbitrary advance in prices. The National Live Stock association has started a movement to build a string of slaughter houses from Denver to Chicago and \$25,000,000 have been subscribed for that purpose. The stock men claim that the price of meat is out of proportion to the price which the trust pays for cattle, hogs and sheep.

The Independent must say that it has little faith that the efforts of either the wage-workers or the stockmen will amount to anything in fighting the trusts. The only way to fight the trusts effectively is to elect a president and congress opposed to the destruction of competition, that will enforce the laws, both criminal and civil, that are now on the statute books and if more legislation is needed to suppress the trusts, speedily enact it. That is what The Independent has been saying for ten years. It will not be long before the masses of the people will be forced by self-preservation to take such action. In that day the trust magnates will be calling on the rocks and hills to fall upon them and hide them from the wrath of the people.

According to Professor Hobson, the great English sociologist, the trouble with Great Britain comes from the same sources of evil and degeneration to which The Independent has been calling attention in almost every issue. He says that the reasons of English decline are the low standard of life so widely prevailing, the decline of agriculture, the enormous consumption of drink, and the demoralizing influence of the gambling habit. For example, owing to a bad land system, the peasantry of some parts of England are pronounced, if not the poorest, at least the most degraded in the world, and of the 70 per cent of the population who now live under city conditions nearly a third are below and almost another third just above the poverty line.

The mistake that many good men make is that the platform of a political party should be the skeleton of a plan for model institutions instead of a statement of fundamental principles upon which institutions suitable to the varying conditions of human life may be built. Such principles must always begin with the demand for equal rights for all and special privileges to none. Even the enunciation of such principle will be useless unless those who advocate them have the honesty and courage to always and everywhere apply them.