

The Independent.

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CZAR MADDEN AT WORK.

CZAR MADDEN AT WORK...

Those energetic gentlemen who helped make the Henry George Edition may be interested in knowing that that issue has caused the Third Assistant Postmaster General to threaten The Independent's "pound-rate privilege." The difficulty ostensibly is that "large numbers of copies of the issue of May 14, 1903, were mailed at the pound rate of postage to names furnished by persons interested in the circulation of the publication"—but in view of the treatment accorded Wilshire's Magazine, the Appeal to Reason, and other publications, reasoning men can scarcely fail to see why the attacks should almost invariably be made upon publications opposed to the plutocratic republican party. The correspondence to date follows:

Lincoln Postoffice. Office of the Postmaster, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., Neb., June 2, 1903.—The Independent, City.—Gents: I hand you herewith copy of letter received from Third Assistant Postmaster General in regard to the mailing of your publication to persons who are not legitimate subscribers inviting your attention to circulars III. and VI and paragraph 5, section 456, of P. L. & R.

"Par. 5, Sec. 456. Extra copies of a second-class publication sent by the publisher thereof acting as the agent of an advertiser or purchaser to addresses furnished by the latter, are not sample copies; but postage thereon at the rate of one cent for each four ounces or fraction thereof (see sec. 455) must be prepaid, the same as if mailed by the advertiser or purchaser himself; and, where a publisher issues a large edition containing an article or articles obviously intended to advance private interests, and circulated directly or indirectly through some arrangements with the parties concerned, or where the periodical contains advertisements secured under an offer or agreement to distribute a given number of copies in excess of the number of subscribers, the extra copies sent out in behalf of the advertisers or other parties interested, and will be subject to postage at the rate of one cent for each four ounces or fraction thereof sent to a single address."

and to inform you that unless the circulation of your publication conforms to the requirements of the P. L. & R., the department will be obliged to take further action. Please advise me in regard to this matter at your earliest opportunity. Respectfully,
EDWARD R. SIZER,
Postmaster.

Washington, D. C., May 27, 1903.—Postmaster, Lincoln, Neb.—Sir: Complaint is made to the department that the publishers of "The Independent" published in your city, regularly mail copies of that publication to persons who are not "legitimate subscribers" under the law, and that large numbers of copies of the issue of May 14, 1903, were mailed at the pound rate of postage to names furnished by persons interested in the circulation of the publication, in violation of paragraph 5, section 456, P. L. & R.

Please invite the attention of the publishers to enclosed copies of departmental circulars III. and VI. and to paragraph 5, section 456, P. L. & R., and inform them that unless the circulation of their publication conforms to the requirements of the postal laws and regulations the department will be obliged, under the statute, to take further action. Respectfully,
EDWIN C. MADDEN,
Third Ass't Postmaster General.

The Nebraska Independent, Lincoln, Neb., June 9, 1903.—Hon. Edward R. Sizer, Postmaster, Lincoln, Neb.—Sir: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication under date of June 2, 1903, enclosing copy of a letter to you signed by Edwin C. Madden, third assistant postmaster general (C. D. No. 75584), making complaint that—

The publishers of The Independent . . . "regularly mail copies of that publication to persons who are not legitimate subscribers under the law . . ."

to which I reply that this complaint

has no foundation in fact. The regular editions of The Independent are mailed only to bona fide subscribers, exchanges with other second-class publications, and to advertisers for proof of insertion; and each week, after our own files are filled, a few extra copies—sometimes 25 to 50 and sometimes 100 to 150—are sent out at our own initiative and expense as sample copies for the purpose of securing subscriptions and advertising, not exceeding three copies to any one person within the year.

As to the second part of the complaint, that—

... "large numbers of copies of the issue of May 14, 1903, were mailed at the pound rate of postage to names furnished by persons interested in the circulation of the publication, in violation of paragraph 5, section 456, P. L. & R."

I beg to make the following statement of fact:

A considerable portion of our subscribers are believers in the economic teachings of Henry George and from time to time in the past have sent in communications on that subject. Finally, in the issue of April 9, 1903, announcement was made that—

... "the issue of May 14, 1903, to be known as the 'Henry George Edition,' will be devoted exclusively to a presentation of the single tax philosophy—a symposium of articles by eminent single taxers and those more humble. . . . Sample copies of the edition will be mailed either in bundles or in single wrappers to lists of individuals at \$1.00 per hundred."

On May 14, 1903, the "Henry George Edition" was published according to previous announcement, and in addition to the copies sent to our regular subscribers, copies were purchased by the persons named below and mailed at the pound rate to lists of names furnished by the purchasers as follows, to-wit:

	No. names.	No. copies
Geo. E. Brittain, 1130 N. Main st., Dayton O.	17	17
Aug. Dellgren, 620 7th st., Minneapolis	13	13
Lawson Purdy, 52 William st., New York city.	100	100
A. C. Allison, 209 Central ave., Newport, Ky.	25	25
Robert Carter, box 1273, Durango, Colo.	10	50
F. W. Maguire, 508 Schiller bldg., Chicago.	47	47
L. J. Quinby, Omaha Neb.	32	64
W. H. T. Wakefield, M'd City, Kas.	82	82
A. Freeland, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.	85	85
E. C. Clark, Syracuse, Neb.	119	119
F. Burgdorff, 58 Wallingford st., Cleveland, O.	400	400
H. Ellingson, Minnehaha, Minn.	11	60
F. T. Moreland, Portsmouth, O.	25	25
Geo. J. Menger, Palmyra, Mo.	98	98
Frank K. Ryan, 506 Olive st., St. Louis, Mo.	100	100
J. B. Sharpe, Pittsburgh, Pa.	22	90
E. C. Clark (for Dr. Hudson), Syracuse, Neb.	97	97
E. B. Swinney, 1467 Bedford ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.	310	310
A. Freeland, (supra).	3	150
H. W. Allen, box 98, El Paso, Tex.	41	41
F. H. Augspurger, Trenton, Q.	60	60
N. H. Hyde, Manchester, Iowa	100	100
George L. Rusby, 128 Franklin st., N. Y.	125	125
F. W. Maguire, (supra).	81	81
L. P. Custer, 1203 Miss. ave., St. Louis, Mo.	16	16
J. H. Sheets, Browerville, Minn.	450	456
John Filmer, 753 Clason st., Brooklyn, N. Y.	24	33
F. W. Maguire, (supra).	100	100
E. Kenney, Creston, Ia.	15	15
John F. Conroy, 56 Murdock st., Youngston, O.	100	100
John F. Conroy, 56 Murdock st., Youngston, O.	100	100
J. S. Corbin, Gouverneur, N. Y.	250	256
J. B. McGauran, 4146 Gallop ave., Denver, Colo.	8	8

Perry D. Plain, Atwater, Illinois	20	20
F. W. Marquis, Station A, Milwaukee, Wis.	110	175
F. W. Marquis.	16	19
F. W. Marquis.	6	37
F. W. Marquis.	128	128
F. W. Marquis.	11	11
F. W. Marquis.	27	27
James Bartley, Amsterdam, N. Y.	19	19
James Bartley	30	30
James Bartley	16	16
James Bartley	104	104
James Bartley	105	105

Totals 3658 4102
In addition to these some 5,000 or 6,000 were mailed in bundles direct to the purchaser.

These are the facts bearing upon the second part of the complaint. The publisher had no intention of violating any of the postal laws and regulations, but believed that the test of violation hinges upon the "interest" of the persons purchasing copies and having them mailed as a compliment to lists of friends. None of the persons named above had advertising in the copies sent out, or were directly or indirectly peculiarly concerned in any advertisement or article in the Henry George Edition of May 14, 1903, with the possible exception of Mr. Maguire, who is an officer in one of the Chicago single tax associations. An examination of the Henry George Edition, a copy of which accompanies this letter, will show that it is made up of news items, biographical and historical sketches, and discussion of economic questions, contributed for publication by the persons whose names are signed at the foot of each article, and the sole "interest" any of these purchasers (excepting, possibly, Mr. Maguire, as above stated) could have in the circulation of the Henry George Edition would be to secure a more extended dissemination of knowledge regarding the single tax theory of political economy, inasmuch as no one of them has any pecuniary interest whatever in the publication and circulation of The Independent. On the part of the publisher he had no intention of trafficking in his pound-rate privilege, but made the price uniform whether sent in bundles or single wrappers in order to secure valuable lists of names of persons who might be induced to become subscribers. If such a state of facts constitutes a violation of the postal laws and regulations, then the publisher is guilty, and he desires a ruling whereby he may avoid any future infraction of the rules. Does paragraph 5, section 456, P. L. & R., absolutely prohibit a publisher from sending at the pound rate a copy or copies of a single issue, paid for by one person and sent to another or others, regardless of the interest of the purchaser, even where there is no other intention than to compliment the receiver?

Trusting that the foregoing may be satisfactory to you and the department, I am, your very truly,
F. D. EAGER,
Publisher.

WASHINGTON POPULISTS

National Committeeman Merrill Believes Several Generations More of Fools Must be Raised Before People Will Vote Right

Editor Independent: Your various favors have been duly received. I am not much in politics now. While I am as firm a believer as ever in the principles advocated by the populist party, I am of the opinion that several generations more fools must be raised before the people at large will vote their own welfare and interests. The populists are not strong in this state; I think, to some extent for the reason that about six years ago we unfortunately elected a few bad people to the legislature who through their action brought the party into disrepute.

I take some reform literature because I feel as though I ought to support the movement; but I do not read much along that line as it makes me mad and interferes with my peace of mind to see what chumps people are in whooping it up for the old parties—and nothing.
F. S. MERRILL,
Spokane, Wash. S. 7. Post st.

The theory of "surplus value"—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

AFTER ALL OF THEM

Mr. Vance Discusses Governor Poynter's Letter and Touches up the Single Taxers and Socialists

Editor Independent: Let me say frankly that I do not believe political conditions warrant either the optimistic views of ex-Governor Poynter respecting the future of the independent party, or his pessimistic prophecies respecting that of the democratic party. Mr. Poynter forgets that at another time in his life, when fusion "brought grists to his own mill," he was quite as ardent a fusionist as Mr. Cleveland is now a democrat.

I deny ex-Governor Poynter's right to assume that the democratic party will "turn down Mr. Bryan;" that it will repudiate the Chicago or Kansas City platform; indorse the republican asset currency scheme, or do any of the foolish and wicked things the governor assumes it will at its next national convention in 1904.

Had there been no fusion with the democrats in the past we would have never had an ex-Governor Poynter in Nebraska. Fusing with the democrats on the part of the independent party was not as fatal a mistake as fusing with the negroes and white republicans of the south. While it may be physically possible to "serve two masters," it is difficult to carry transparencies in both the republican and democratic processions!

Reformation in government is the sole object of all good men. Mr. Poynter proposes, if I understand him, to bring about the reformation without disturbing either the trusts or tariff robbers. Such a reformation would doubtless receive the hearty indorsement of both Senator Hanna and J. Pierpont Morgan.

The trouble with this dear country of ours is that it is suffering from an acute attack of republican blood poison. A bad complication of imperialism, tariff robbery, trust robbery, government by injunction, asset currency, and a general declension of public morals and official honesty. Our only hope for amendment and health lies in a return to the sober methods of the old constitution, to an assertion on the part of the common people of their constitutional right to self-government. Let the § and the lawfully created corporation take its rightful place as the servant, and not the master of the man.

The independent party should beware the rainbow-chaser. The single tax theory, while in many respects laudable, has too much of the cuckoo in it. It conflicts with that instinct of nest and home building that is common to all life, bird, beast, insect or human. The adoption of Henry Georgeism by the independent party will drive from it that great body of conservative agriculturalists and mechanics who own the little farms they till, and their own cottages they live in. A fusion with the socialists, to which all this middle of the road folly and rainbow chasing is tending, will be as fatal to populism as would the nomination of Grover Cleveland as its presidential candidate by the democratic party. There is really nothing in socialism that appeals to the energy, manhood or ambition of the average American citizen. It indeed promises to increase wages and shorten the hours of labor by the rules of arithmetical progression, "To feed, clothe and educate the children," to furnish a man with work while he is young, pension him when old, and bury him when dead.

But the average American would hardly thank you for the black broth with which Lacadaemon regaled her Spartan citizens at her common table. It is well in this connection to remember that socialism as practiced in Lacadaemon was founded on human slavery, and is only possible where slavery exists. Wise and great as was the grand old man, Lyeurgus, I doubt the wisdom of experimenting with his system of government here in the United States. Democracy as laid down in its national platforms of 1896 and 1900 was simply a return to first principles, a renunciation of the Stuffed Prophet of Buzzard's Bay. The democrats who had the courage to rebuke and condemn an administration they had placed in power will scarcely be deterred from following their honest convictions.

As to the governor's denunciation of them as "pie-eaters," my personal recollections of the governor are, that