

for advertising purposes; this upon the ground that it advertises your views and ideas. If this is the position of the department, I do not see how it can possibly sustain the same. There are many publications which are established and designed to promulgate the views of the owners; indeed the editorial columns of every newspaper set forth the views of its editor. The term in the law 'primarily designed for advertising purposes' certainly will not bear any such construction as you indicate is placed thereon by the third assistant postmaster general. I have examined the two copies of the publication, and I do not see, if you comply with the usual requirements for admission as second-class matter, why the publication should not be admitted. . . . I feel that on the facts as presented by you, you are in the right under the law.

"If you wish me to act as your counsel in this matter, I will do so upon the payment of a retainer of \$5,500, and an agreement for an additional contingent fee of \$2,500, provided the publication is admitted as second-class matter."

On this letter I commented: "With the publicity of the rumor of a disgraceful blackmailing intriguing game that is supposed to be going on in the postoffice has gained, it is evident that whatever lawyer took up my case would take it at the peril of his reputation if he won, and this would be doubly the case if Mr. Barrett were the successful man, both on account of his being a nephew to Mr. Tyner, the attorney general to the postoffice, and his previous connection with the postoffice. Having this in mind I decided as a matter of duty and honor that, much as I would have liked to have won my case, I simply could not ask Mr. Barrett to make such a sacrifice for me for a mere \$5,000!"

In the daily papers of April 22 we read:

"James N. Tyner, attorney general for the postoffice department, was summarily removed by Postmaster General Payne on April 23. Mr. Tyner had been asked to resign early in March, but upon the pleas of himself and wife the time was extended till May 1 to save him disgrace. On April 21 his wife and her sister, Mrs. Barrett, the mother of Harrison J. Barrett, went to his office with a safe expert after hours and rifled the safe of all it contained. Inspectors went to the Tyner house and were refused the papers. Tyner was dismissed, and it is said all concerned may be prosecuted."

The New York Sun dispatch on the matter includes this statement:

"It is generally known that a Washington firm, operating through a stool-pigeon, has been in the habit of sending blackmailing letters to mail concerns throughout the country whose methods were considered questionable, and charges have been made that Mr. Barrett was interested in this transaction, and that it was his whose influence was used to secure the approval of the assistant attorney general's office for mail schemes of a doubtful nature."

In November, 1901, I wrote to the postmaster general, complaining of the injustice of Madden's decision and asking for an investigation. But he referred me back to Madden, the very man against whom I complained. I then wrote to the president asking for an interview, feeling confident that in five minutes conversation I could convince him that his subordinates had done me a great injustice; but he referred me back to the postmaster general who had referred me back to Madden. Even when Hon. F. O. McCarty, of the Massachusetts legislature wrote him, appealing for a personal interview on the subject he, too, was referred in the same way to the same official of whom the complaint was made. In an open letter to President Roosevelt at the time, I said: "Why endanger your political future by tying your fortunes to such a man (as Madden)? What greater blunder

could Mr. Madden have committed your administration to, than that of suppressing the freedom of the press?"

Again I am substantiated. In the New York World of May 4, eighteen months afterwards, I find the following:

**FEAR EFFECT OF SCANDALS ON 1904.**

President's Friends Are Greatly Worried by Revelations in Postoffice Department. Baltimore Inquiry Stopped by Officials. Serious Irregularities Believed to Exist There—Now Likely That Machen Will Be Removed. Special to The World.

Washington, May 3.—Many of President Roosevelt's close friends in the senate and house are worried about the postoffice scandals. They fear they will be a serious handicap to Mr. Roosevelt in 1904 unless they are rigorously and quickly dealt with. Senator Lodge, who is here now, is one of these. When Senators Aldrich, Spooner, Allison and Platt, of Connecticut, get together at Virginia Hot Springs next Monday, ostensibly to discuss a new financial measure, they will also talk over the postoffice scandals, and Senator Lodge is going down there to tell them what he knows.

Meanwhile Postmaster General Payne is waiting to hear from Charles Emory Smith and the others to whom he wrote on Friday for an explanation of Tulloch's charges, and Tulloch sits serenely at his home in Forest Glen and insists he can prove everything he says, and more, too.

Postmaster General Payne has been trying to keep the public knowledge of the scandals within bounds. His attempts resemble those of a man fighting a prairie fire. As soon as he gets one spot smothered the fire breaks out somewhere else.

From the moment that Perry Heath became first assistant postmaster general in 1897, to the present time every investigation of any note that has been started anywhere in the postoffice department has been promptly stopped by orders from officials "higher up." There is reason to suppose that the Baltimore postoffice conceals scandals similar to those in the Washington postoffice, but when an investigation was started there it was promptly stopped by orders from Washington. From time to time investigations have been held behind closed doors, but the results have always been whitewashed.

The men who do the actual investigation, the experts, are skilled, conscientious men. They are all in the civil service and they have nothing to fear. However, when they begin to find out things they are promptly called off and they can do nothing but obey.

Although no findings have been announced, there is not the slightest doubt that the great machinery of the postoffice department has been used unscrupulously to repay political obligations and to favor needy politicians. It has been a grab-bag with plums for all who had the proper standing, and the men who have held the bag have seen to it that they secured some of the choicest plums for themselves.

The present indications are that A. W. Machen, the superintendent of the division of free deliveries, will be removed or allowed to resign. Now that Tulloch has made his charges public, the affairs of John T. Merritt, postmaster for Washington, will also be investigated. The postmastership at Washington is a bit of political patronage that does not go to the District of Columbia. Merritt is from Lockport, N. Y. He is a supporter of Representative James W. Wedsworth of Geneseo.

I have frequently intimated that very possibly the politics of my paper had something to do with its exclusion from the mails, but this was denied by the postoffice officials. Today we read the following confirmation in the New York Mail and Express a republican paper, presumably speaking on behalf of the administration:

"It is to be hoped that the report which comes from Washington that a campaign is to be begun against socialism is correct, and that it will be conducted with intelligence and vigor. As outlined, the campaign is to begin at once, it is to be educational in its character, and it is to be prosecuted steadily through this and next year. The plan is the result of many consultations among leading republicans, including such men as Senator Hanna, Secretary of the Navy Moody, Postmaster General Payne, and Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin. They propose to make an earnest and comprehensive effort to check the spread of socialistic ideas and to supplant them

with sound, conservative opinions on industrial questions, governmental policies and all subjects affecting society and the individual. The scheme is a thoroughly commendable one, and it should receive the support not only of republicans, but of all intelligent and disinterested citizens as well."

Naturally the best way to check the spread of socialistic ideas would be to suppress successful socialist papers, by refusing to give them publishers' rates, to which they are entitled.

Over a year ago, when this magazine was about to be forced to remove its printing office from New York to Canada, owing to the unjust ruling above referred to, I called at Mr. Hearst's office in New York city, and give full particulars of the effort that was being made to blackmail me. Hearst offered no consolation or help whatsoever.

Today Mr. Hearst is posing as the champion of a free press and the exposé of blackmailers. Why didn't he show his mettle by taking up the matter then, instead of waiting until now when the whole country is conversant with the corruption?

I gave the whole story not only to Mr. Hearst, but to several other New York daily papers, and not one of them would have anything to do with it. They frankly said they were not interested in the postoffice blackmailing of the weekly and monthly press, as long as the daily press was left unmolested. Now that it has become popular, however, they all join in the general hue and cry.

Meanwhile, from my Canadian vantage ground I look on at the daily disclosures of the fraud, corruption and intrigue which I well knew, from my own experience, to exist, hoping that when the air clears once more I shall be able to exercise my undeniable right to publish my magazine in my own country, even though it have for its motto: "Let the Nation Own the Trusts."

H. GAYLORD WILSHIRE.

**NORTH CAROLINA POPULISTS**

National Committeeman Lawrence Tells of the Political Situation in His State—No Loss of Populists.

Editor Independent: Yours received some time since.

We had no ticket in the field at last election, but would say there has been no loss, if circumstances were such that we could draw a division of the voters. Owing to the fact that it was an off-year; that we had no candidates in the field; that the circulating medium had been expanded and the silver question was not a necessity, there was an apparent loss of populist strength. The populist voters were, I suppose, about equally divided between the two old parties, although most of them had been drawn from the democratic party.

I fear we have no people's party organization in this state. Hon. Marion Butler was the last state chairman. The state executive committee was as follows: H. W. Ayer, vice chairman, Raleigh; J. F. Mitchell, Franklinton; J. F. Click, Hickory; A. S. Pease, Oxford; J. B. Lloyd, Tarboro; Z. T. Garrett, Henderson.

I am unable to answer your other questions.

Ridicule has been one of the greatest means used to put our people back to the democratic party. As for myself I can never go back to it, especially in this state. The democrats here are rotten to the core, with no hope of reform that I can see, and not much hope in the near future to get a fair election—nothing but a revolution can do that. I should have said also that another great cause of disruption in our party was the division of the leaders between leading issues and the national tickets.

S. A. LOWRANCE.

Mooreville, N. C.

**UTAH POPULISTS**

National Committeeman Smith Corroborates the Statements of National Committeeman Lawrence.

Editor Independent: Your letter of inquiry of the 16th inst. received, but press of business has prevented me from answering until now.

Question (a) "What has been the loss of populist voting strength in

your state since 1892?" Answer: It has been complete.

(b) "What caused this loss?" Answer: The democrats stole our thunder and the most of our sounding boards (orators and newspaper men).

(c) "With what party or parties do the ex-populists now affiliate?" Answer: It is pretty hard to properly place the ex-populists. The socialists polled about the same vote last year that the populists polled when their organization was in working order, (1896). However, I am satisfied that not to exceed 40 per cent of the populists are now in the socialist party; possibly 40 per cent in the democratic party, 10 per cent in the republican party and 10 per cent have taken to the woods.

(d) "Have you any populist organization in your state?" No, our chairman has "jined" the socialists.

(e) Answered above.

(f) and (g) We hardly know what to do but wait. There are just as many populists as ever, in fact about four times as many as there were prior to the education we gave the democrats during the campaigns of 1892 and 1896. Should the democrats declare for the initiative and referendum and for the government ownership of railroads, you could not organize the populists in an independent party in Utah, unless the democrats were to nominate his royal highness, Cleveland, to carry out their demands.

(h) "Favor or oppose broadening the land plank so as to be acceptable to the single taxers?" Answer: By all means broaden it.

S. S. SMITH.

National Committeeman for Utah, Ogden, Utah.

**\$15,000,000 WASHED AWAY**

CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE DIRECT LOSS TO KANSAS CITY PLACE IT AT ABOVE FIGURES.

**KANSAS CITY AND SUBURBS**

Were the Victims of the Overflow of Both the Kaw and Missouri Rivers.

The loss of life by floods in Kansas has fortunately not reached the proportions feared, but the destruction of property has been rather underestimated. Each day reveals a new phase of this branch of the disaster. Buildings sink, walls give way, roofs collapse and in one way and another the extent of the catastrophe grows. Relief has poured in from the more favored localities and generous contributions are going to the stricken districts. Hope has sprung up anew and the enterprising cities are taking up the work of restoration with the energy and pluck for which Kansas City is noted.

\$15,000,000 IS A VAST SUM.

It exceeds the banking capital of all the national banks of Nebraska. It is equal to the tax receipts of the state treasurer of Nebraska for general taxes for nearly ten years. Yet during the last ten years the people of Nebraska have sent away from the state to eastern life insurance companies a sum exceeding \$15,000,000. There is no business excuse for continuing this peculiarly exhausting style of commercial extravagance now that

THE BANKERS RESERVE LIFE and other Nebraska companies are making insurance on equal terms with alien companies. Six millions of business attests the loyalty of the people to home institutions and assets equivalent to \$2 for every \$1 of liability should satisfy all doubters as to the efficiency of the management. The BANKERS RESERVE LIFE COMPANY shows the lowest death rate among American life companies and the smallest percentage of lapses. It is a legal life company founded upon the established principles of safe life insurance with investment as an incident.

B. H. ROBISON, PRESIDENT.

is recognized as one of the best informed life insurance experts in Nebraska and the west. He has guided this company from the beginning of its existence, avoiding the shoals which confront and frighten or destroy young life companies with inexperienced managers. Honesty, experience, tact, knowledge and enterprise united will build a life insurance institution anywhere. The daily receipts from the field demonstrate the fact that the people believe in THE BANKERS RESERVE LIFE.

Do you need groceries? Write for one of Branch & Miller Co.'s combination orders advertised in this issue. It's a money saver. The Independent guarantees satisfaction. Hundreds of our readers have found them so.

