

**SHOOT TO KILL**

The Independent's way of fighting plutocracy is to fight. Shoot to kill. It will never support candidates running on compromise platforms however good their records may have been. It will not support men with plutocratic tendencies running on the best platform that can be made. The candidate must be right and the platform must be right. The people who want good and honest government have had enough of straddle platforms and straddle candidates. They want a platform made without subterfuge which contains the principles in which they believe and a candidate who believes in those principles just as firmly as they themselves do, and if they can't have that, they prefer that the straightout plutocratic candidate shall be elected. Then they will know what to expect. This thing of sticking to a party "right or wrong" is ten times worse than the imperial doctrine of supporting a war "right or wrong, because the country has engaged in it. It is the opinion of The Independent that if the Kansas City platform democrats should openly declare that the principles therein set forth were looked upon by them as fundamental and that they would never support a candidate who repudiated them, regularity or no regularity, in a few weeks they would have the reorganizers on the run. So far, there have been none among them who were bold enough to declare so publicly, although thousands of the rank and file have so declared in private. As long as the fight is carried on in that manner the reorganizers will continue to gain strength. Better take the course that The Independent has always followed. Shoot to kill.

The Bee says that The Independent "gives the impression" that it would not support the present fusion regents if they were renominated, and then adds: "There is no danger of that." The Independent wishes to inform the Bee and all others interested that if the populist state convention should do such a thing as renominate the present regents or any man likely to make the state university a pest hole of partisan republican politics, it will not only not support them, but it will fight their re-election from the time the nomination is made until the last vote is cast.

"By the grace of God, King of Serbia" has proved a little too rank for the bishops and potentates of Europe, but Karageorgevitch is as much king "by the grace of God" as the best of them. The thing is a blasphemy when uttered in regard to any king.

Since the Iowa convention the South Omaha Democrat has got far enough along to call us populists "calamity howlers, purifiers, round-heads and whiskered brigade." Let it howl. That does not change the esteem in which the thoughtful, honest democrats of this state are held by populists. If the South Omaha Democrat and its kind got control of the party it will not be troubled by association with populists, nor for that matter with some thousands of democrats who honestly believed in the doctrines of the last two democratic national platforms.

The gold bug democrats think that they have discovered a war cry that will equal Mark Hanna's "stand pat." They intend to start shouting: "Turn the rascals out." That is good just now, but if the postoffice thieves all get in jail before the next election it will become a sort of boomerang.

Every department of the government seems to be in the hands of republican thieves. Recently frauds have been discovered in the land department involving far greater amounts than the postoffice stealings. In one case a

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The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address,

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suit has been brought to recover \$2,000,000.

The Lincoln Evening News says that the Nebraska socialist candidate for supreme judge is a blacksmith. That is no disqualification. Many supreme court decisions give us the impression that other parties in the past have nominated tinkers for that high position.

In a letter to The Independent, under date of July 1, Secretary Edgerton says: "Our local committees are all formed and the folks have taken hold of the matter with a vim. I have heard from Mr. Parker, Mr. McBride and Mr. Park of the mid-roads and they all assure me that their committee will be called at once for July 27 here. (The call appeared in last week's Independent, and is republished this week.—Ed. Ind.) Inasmuch as they purpose calling their full national committee, also their sympathizers and friends, I think we had better do the same. I do not believe Mr. Edgerton should delay a day. . . . Reports received are almost all favorable. Am hearing from silver democrats, single taxers and middle-of-the-roadsers as much as from our own people."

Some of the American promoters went over to Paris and made offers to the city government—very fine on their face—for a franchise to put in gas and electric plants. They captured the special committee appointed to investigate the matter which reported in favor of accepting the offer, but when it came up before the council the whole thing was repudiated and the council resolved to put in a municipal gas plant of its own and instead of giving the profits to a foreign syndicate the people themselves should have them. The mullet head in this country will have none of that sort of thing. He wants to pay three prices for gas and wear patches on his pants so that the gentlemen of the syndicates can have their yachts and palaces and have a good time.

In every state where there was no fusion with the Bryan democracy the populist party was practically wrecked. In the only state where such fusion was constant the populist party is in full fighting trim. The old republican cry recently resurrected by the Lincoln Star that fusion killed the populist party does not seem well founded. Fusion was a "policy" and had nothing to do with the principles advocated. It was simply "pointics," and a kind that the republicans of this state vigorously objected to. Nowhere, except in North Carolina, where Butler "fused" with the republicans, has the party ever "fused" with another party advocating principles opposed to those announced in the national populist platforms. It has been simply a means to an end, and whenever the party deems it wise to employ other means it will do so.

The meat trust, not satisfied with its other extortions and stealings, is now engaged in putting up short weight packages of lard, canned meat and other products of the packing houses. The ability of a trust to invent new forms of stealing exceeds the genius of all the rogues of history. A three-pound can of packing house lard contains only two and one-half pounds, and the trust "stands pat."

The following clipping from the Nebraska State Journal of last Sunday was handed to the editor of The Independent with the inquiry: "Is the writer of that a fool or a liar?" "The surplus has always been a grief to the democratic party and the way they turned the republican surplus of 1892 into a democratic deficiency of nearly three hundred millions before the termination of their high jinks with the administration of Grover Cleveland was a caution." Everybody acquainted with the matter at all knows that the plates for the issue of new bonds were issued before the republican administration retired and those plates were exhibited by Senator Vest in the senate corridors. By the most desperate schemes money was finally raked together to keep the government going until the old stuffed prophet took his seat. That is the kind of a surplus that the republicans had under the John Sherman regime.

North Carolina is about at the foot of the list in literacy and is actually at the foot when it comes to the productive power per capita. It is education that has so increased the productive power of the United States that in that line it leads the world. But after all there are other things that are more important to mankind than the mere production of wealth. Wealth has ruined many nations, but poverty never one. The question that



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confronts modern man is how to prevent riches from producing degeneration, how to keep the man first and the dollar second.

Somewhat nettled by the constant assertion that colleges turn out only "educated loafers" and "useless athletes," large numbers of students and graduates have started for the Kansas wheat fields. When they get there the "quarter back" and "center rush" will find that the ordinary farm boy will be able to put them in the shade any day in the week and then go to the country dance at night. University and farm athletics are two different things.

There was never a paper published that has been treated by other papers as The Independent has been. For years editors all over the United States have been in the habit of taking column after column of matter from The Independent and printing it in their editorial columns as original matter. It is often said that The Independent should feel complimented by the constant reprinting of its matter, but it is a kind of compliment that always makes the editor fighting mad.

In the city of Pittsburg a majority of the city council gave written pledges before their election that they would not grant franchises without full compensation. This council voted the other night to grant the Pennsylvania railroad the right to occupy one of the principal streets for a mere pretense of payment. One of the papers in that state gives up in despair and asks what can be done. The remedy is very simple. It is a referendum whenever a franchise is granted. The populists long ago pointed that out.

Marshall Field gave out an interview in New York the other day on the industrial and financial situation that coincides with what The Independent has been saying for several months. He says that the top has been reached and that the greatest caution must be used. The failure of the ship trust will make the selling of industrial stocks still more difficult and that confidence in these industrial trusts is being lost. He thinks more are to follow the ship trust in the near future. A poor crop in the western states would end in a general smash-up. The fate of all the great concerns with their millions of capitalization depends on what the farmer can do in the next four months. He is the foundation of the whole superstructure—banks, palaces, yachts and all.

Oregon has been rejoicing greatly over having secured the initiative and referendum. It has been commended by the press of all parties and its good influence on the legislature pointed out. But Oregon has not got the referendum after all. Four judges of the circuit court put their heads together—formed a merger, as it were—and knocked it out. They say that it is unconstitutional.

The first haul of the net to catch postoffice thieves drew ashore three "God and destiny" congressmen, and the most conspicuous among them was Loud.

**The Same Old Story**

The foolishness of attempting to create artificial competition in businesses that are natural monopolies is well shown in this press dispatch:

San Francisco, July 2.—Competition in the selling of illuminating gas and electric power ceased today in this city. The San Francisco Gas and Elec-

tric Light company, which formerly for years had a monopoly, is again in control. It has purchased for \$6,000,000 the Independent Gas company and the International Electric company. These two were owned by Claus Spreckles. It also absorbed the Pacific Gas Improvement company's plant and business, paying \$5 per share for 139,000 shares. The Equitable Gas company and smaller concerns were absorbed on a basis of exchange of stock. There will be a reorganization Monday, and W. B. Boutin will probably be elected president. The price of gas will be raised a little over \$1 per 1,000 feet. In some districts it fell to 50 cents under competition.

**Forell's Frothing**

A friend of The Independent, living at Seward, sends the following editorial clipped from George L. Burr's paper, the Hamilton County Register. In passing, it may be said that although The Independent never refuses to exchange with any Nebraska paper, Mr. Burr seems to prefer borrowing The Independent from his neighbors and will not exchange. The editorial says that—

"Rev. E. von Forell made a couple of trips to Lincoln this week. He says that the populists down there are criticising the editor of The Independent quite severely for his efforts to sow discord at the last meeting of the state committee. They attribute to him the introduction of the resolution declaring against fusion that the committee were not willing to consider and say that his fighting qualities all found employment in scattering dissension between those who have been antagonizing trusts and corporation rule and that he had little to suggest about a way to organize for their defeat in this state."

The "populists down there" with whom Mr. Forell associates are doubtless Jo Johnson, Charlie Morrill, and others of that stripe. The editor of The Independent cares nothing for their criticism, or for Mr. Burr's attempts to strike The Independent over Forell's shoulders. Notwithstanding Mr. Burr's nervous apprehension that a little plain talk at the populist committee meeting might frighten away the "touchy" democrats, the committee went right ahead and settled the question of holding a state convention at Grand Island as the editor favored without the foolishness of asking the permission of any other body of men. It was rather amusing to notice Mr. Burr's fidgeting. Such an astute politician as he modestly admits himself to be, should have kept in closer touch with the trend of events.

The "fighting qualities" of the editor of The Independent will not permit him to "suggest about a way to organize for the defeat of trusts and corporation rule" which has, as a part of its program, the renomination of a man like E. von Forell, who has proven himself a traitor to the party he pretends to affiliate with. Neither will those fighting qualities permit the editor to advise his party to go out of its way and trundle at the feet of any other political organization. He would gladly co-operate with all parties in the re-election of Judge Sullivan—but the people's party organization has not performed its full mission and it must be maintained.

**Nebraska's Socialists**

The socialists on July 4 nominated the following state ticket: Supreme judge, Christiansen, of Plattsmouth.

Regents of the state university, T. W. Lippincott, of Blair, and F. S. Wilbur, of Omaha.

The Seattle (Wash.) Socialist was indorsed as official organ, thus putting a ring in the nose of Wayland of the Appeal to Reason and his mid-road populist associate editors.

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