

**The Nebraska Independent**

Lincoln, Nebraska.

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Lincoln, Neb.

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When the regents undertook to make the university a pest hole of republican party politics, the men who elected them naturally objected. That is the only reason that any protest has been made.

Several world records in horse racing have been beaten on the Chicago race tracks during the last week. Horses are improving, but the men who run them are becoming more like brutes as the years pass by.

The present system of taxation is so infernal, placing as it does the whole burden of government upon the poor, The Independent will favor any other system, no matter what, for it cannot possible be any worse.

W. J. Ghent, author of "Our Benevolent Feudalism," joins in the extension of The Independent's circulation by buying four of the Madden Educational subscription cards and having the paper sent to friends in Indiana.

In the materialistic philosophy of the socialists there is no right and no wrong, no ought or ought not, no selfishness or unselfishness and all these things are summed up in their phrase "egoism." But what the "egoism" is they don't know.

C. H. Snively, Uniontown, W. Va.: I was immensely pleased with the Henry George Edition, and your intention of devoting a page to the discussion of the single tax will make your paper more valuable, as in my opinion all good populists should be single taxers.

The postoffice department has issued an order discontinuing purchases from the Postal Device Improvement company. That is the company in which Loud, the congressman who was so wrought up over deficits in the department that he wanted to suppress the rural press, was interested.

Our subscriber and friend, Bishop L. B. Heller, Belmar, N. J., sends announcement of the 32nd America World camp meeting, to be held between Como and Belmar in July and August, where, he says, there is "room for seven million people from Lakewood, N. J. pines to the Atlantic ocean coast."

The wisest thing politically for this administration to do is to make thorough work of the postoffice investigation. When congress meets the minority will force an investigation by a committee of the house. If anything is covered up or any guilty man allowed to escape, that committee will be sure to discover it.

**PLUTOCRATIC LITERATURE**

The greatest obstacle that any reform movement has to contend against is the enormous mass of plutocratic literature that is thrown broadcast over the land. The rural homes are swamped with it and in the cities the daily papers are distributed by the hundred thousand at far less than the cost of the white paper. It is not true that the advertisers pay these enormous bills. It would come near bankrupting the mercantile world to do it. Take it here in Lincoln. There are three large republican daily papers published here, in this small city of less than 45,000 inhabitants. The immediate range of their circulation must of necessity be small. Every man acquainted with the newspaper business knows that they are published at a loss of from \$600 or \$700 a month each. Who is it that puts up that enormous sum of money? One of them is furnished free to all its subscribers, that is, the News and the Journal are furnished to their subscribers at the former price of one. Two daily papers for 15 cents a week every man knows must cost somebody enormous sums beside the pitance that is gathered from subscribers and advertisers. Who furnishes this money? In the case of one Lincoln daily the proprietor holds a government position with a salary of \$17,000. That may account for its continued publication. The three papers publish exactly the same news matter and as for the editorial matter it is too insignificant to be a factor whether considered from the quantity or quality of it.

What is true of Lincoln is true of other cities. This plutocratic stuff is forced on the people in such masses that any attempt to furnish another kind is always met with the reply: "I get so many papers now that I can't read half of them." They never stop to think that the time spent in reading these plutocratic sheets is wasted, that the real news is suppressed, garbled or put in some insignificant place where they never see it. They only think that they get a host of papers.

Against this condition which results from the contributions of the great syndicates and the rake-offs from office-holding, the publisher who tries to furnish a paper giving correct information and reasonable discussion of things affecting the people must contend.

There can be no doubt that literature has a much larger effect in influencing voters than all the speeches that can be made. All the good there is in a speech comes from its reproduction in the press and furnishing a theme to write upon. Until those who are opposed to plutocracy find some way of extending the circulation of their literature among the people there can be no advancement. A county that will expend \$100 for speakers would make ten votes where it makes one if it spent the same amount in putting such a paper as The Independent in circulation among the voters.

There stares every publisher of a reform paper in the face the terrible handicap of the free circulation of this mass of republican papers, and Madden never interferes with that sort of thing. If every man had to pay for the paper he received, then thousands could be induced to subscribe for The Independent where now only a few scores do so. The man who gets a free republican paper can keep a sort of run of the affairs of the world, learn of its storms, floods, mine explosions, battles and criminal news, but if he had to pay for his paper he would make some sort of a selection and soon take interest in government and the onward movement of mankind. Now when he gets his literature free he lets it go at that.

The revival of populism that now seems evident will prosper just as the populist literature is spread among the people. It behooves every pop-

ulist to use his utmost endeavors in that direction.

**HON. TOM L. JOHNSON**

That most genial gentleman, Tom L. Johnson, made a call at The Independent office last week and shed about enough of cheerfulness and good humor to lighten the hearts of all The Independent force for a week. Old times were talked over when the editor of The Independent was in Washington and Tom Johnson was on the floor of the house fighting the force of ravenous wolves on the republican side who were determined to fasten on the people the money trust, the tariff trust and all the other trusts. Tom does not pose as an orator, but what he said on some of those occasions have become household words among all men who love liberty: hate special privileges, while some of the oratorical efforts that filled the house with senators and other distinguished men have been forgotten. The people know that Tom Johnson can neither be driven with threats nor bought with money and therefore they all have a sort of a liking for him.

In his address at the Fairview Fourth of July celebration he made a point or two that will also become household words during the coming campaigns. He called attention to Mark Hanna's war cry, "stand pat," and said that he did not suppose that that audience, all of whom were respectable and honest people, really understood the phrase as it was a poker term and they were not poker players. When a man drew a hand he sometimes "stood pat" when there were no cards of any value in it. He put up a bluff, and that was what Mark Hanna's war cry meant. Then he called attention to the downfall of the republican party since the days when it stood by Lincoln with his clean hands to the present when it "stood pat" for Mark Hanna and his poker hand.

Tom Johnson does not look a day older than he did ten years ago and as far as The Independent is concerned it hopes he will never get any older until he has downed every renegade democrat, driven the trusts out of existence and brought to the presidency some men with as clean hands as Lincoln had.

**LOUIS F. POST**

The editors of The Independent had a genial hour with Louis F. Post when he was in the city last week as one of the orators at the Fairview Fourth of July celebration. Mr. Post uses just as elegant, strong and forceful English in his public addresses as he does when he writes for his paper, The Public, and his address was what was expected from a man of his great attainments. As a writer, a thinker and economist Mr. Post has a national reputation, and the audience that listened to him had a rare entertainment. The Independent expresses its best wishes for Mr. Post and his paper.

**DR. H. S. TAYLOR**

Dr. Taylor, the poet-lawyer, was in the city last week, being one of the orators at the Fairview Fourth of July celebration. Dr. Taylor is a member of the populist national committee and as full of fight as he ever was. He still has full faith in populist principles. He was not in good health and after he had just opened his address he was unable to proceed on account of faintness. His speech was an attack on the modern tory and the audience was greatly disappointed when Mr. Taylor was compelled to cease. Afterwards he read two of his poems to the delight of the audience, one of which has never been published, and which is printed elsewhere in this issue of The Independent.

In an informal talk with Dr. Taylor The Independent learned that he intends to attend the Denver conference on the 27th of July. He said

that from force of circumstances he had been acting with the Kansas City democrats, but that he had always told them plainly that the moment they abandoned those principles he would take to the woods as far as any association with them was concerned.

He thinks that the populists have done a wonderful work in educating the rank and file of the democratic party and believes that the principles of populism have a deeper hold on democratic voters than is generally admitted. In illustration of that, he said not long since he was addressing the voters of a democratic ward in Chicago. He told them, and they were what were called the ward workers, that the moment the party abandoned the principles that it had been advocating since 1896 he should take to the woods and have nothing more to do with it. He expected that these men, being democratic workers and thorough partisans, would resent the declaration, but to his astonishment there were shouts from every part of the hall: "We will, too."

Dr. Taylor is not only a lawyer and a poet, but he is one of the greatest living orators. It is to be hoped that nothing will interfere to prevent him from attending the conference at Denver.

**WILLIAM W. BRIDE**

Wm. W. Bride, of Washington, D. C., was a caller at Liberty Building Wednesday and spent a short time chatting with the editors. Readers of The Independent will remember the excellent service he rendered in the past as special correspondent at the nation's capital. Mr. Bride is making a tour of the west, reaching Nebraska in time to read the Declaration of Independence at the Fairview Fourth of July celebration. He will accompany Mr. Bryan's family on an outing to Grand Lake, Colo.; thence will go to Hiyannis, Neb., for a short visit with Mr. Stark, son of Former Congressman Stark; thence to Alma, Neb., to visit Former Congressman Shallenberger; and from there he goes to Oklahoma—in which territory he expects to engage next year in the practice of law—and finally on to California.

Mr. Bride related an amusing incident which occurred on his trip from Washington here. A fellow passenger, learning that Mr. Bride's home is in Washington, inquired if he knew anything regarding the esteem in which the Nebraska delegation was held at the capital. Mr. Bride asked him to "name the man" and he would do his best to inform him. The conversation which followed was interrupted by the stranger saying, "Why, that's exactly what I read in the Nebraska Independent; a Washington correspondent by the name of Bride told that same story. Maybe you know him him?" "Bill" Bride—oh, yes; I know him very well," answered The Independent's correspondent. "And," said Mr. Bride, in relating the incident, "I decided that two witnesses were better than one and did not introduce myself."

As he views the outlook, the plutocracy aims to nominate Gorman next year.

The Methodists, Congregationalists and United Brethren have formed a salvation trust and "merged" the three bodies into one for the purpose of destroying competition in over-worked territory. It is expected to greatly reduce expenses by the reduction of the number of employees. They will divide up the world into special fields of operation as the railroads do.

Hon. J. H. Calderhead, auditor of the state of Montana, in a letter to the editor of The Independent says: "I note that Secretary Edgerton has taken hold and called a conference at Denver, July 27, which meets with my hearty approval. We must do something and must not delay. I will be there unless something now unforeseen prevents."