

## The Nebraska Independent

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From conversations with several republicans up in the northern part of the state the fact was elicited that a good many men in that party look upon Mickey as a worse affliction than a vermiform appendix.

Our old friend over in Iowa, R. A. Feist, says that the populists over there "are doing some reorganizing on their own hook." The way they have gone at it is to get our party press into the hands of populists everywhere and Mr. Feist is doing his share in that sort of work.

The republican editors of Nebraska for years have sat up nights inventing epithets to apply to the criminality of fusion. The republicans and democrats fused on the only candidate for a state office in New York this year, but there has been no denunciation of that act by these same republican editors.

The distress and suffering in Macedonia, which perhaps surpasses any which has occurred in the world in the last 500 years, has at last moved the Twentieth Century club to appeal for assistance to in a slight measure at least relieve it. Thousands of women and children are dying of starvation and suffering from wounds which have never been dressed since the fiendish Turks inflicted them.

Perhaps the most rabid advocate of protection would object to putting up a tariff between New York and, say, Texas, for an example. But if it would be bad policy to destroy free trade between Texas and New York, why is it not also bad policy to prohibit free trade between Cuba and New York? They are both about the same distance from the metropolitan city. If New York makes money by having free trade with Texas, why would it not make money by having free trade with Cuba? The Independent is free to confess that it is another one of those things that no pop can find out.

The Old Guard of populism is a body of men, the like of which was never before known in the world. Old and gray, as many of them are, feeble and almost sightless are some, but still they stand at their posts and will fire away, till for each of them "lights out" is sounded for the last time. Like the French drummer boy, they have never learned to sound a retreat, and if some one else sounded it ever so loud, they wouldn't even know what it meant. Of such stuff is L. G. Todd, who lives down in Cass county. He is still sending in new subscriptions for The Independent. The old alliance men will all remember him.

### THE OLD POP FARMER

He lives in the sand hills, up in Custer county. He has lived there and raised cattle for twenty-nine years. A large grove surrounds his house—cottonwoods, interspersed with evergreens. From a spring on a side hill, the purest of water is piped to his house, his barns, his cattle sheds and his hog lots. Beves of quail wander unmolested around his house and through the grove. "I never ate a quail," he said, "and they have always had free access to any part of the place. Last year one of them got hurt and my wife put in a nice little coop and fed it until it got well. It went in and out as it pleased and this summer it raised a brood of its own."

The Poland-China and Berkshire hogs looked fat and happy. The Polled Angus, Durhams and Herefords lolled the days away. "Do you see that long cedar pole," he asked. "I cut that twenty-nine years ago and hauled it over here. There is not a rotten spot in it. It has been put to various uses ever since."

That was his home. But he had taken an active part in the government of his county, state and nation during all the years. He always found something worth going to the polls and voting for every year. The difficult points in political economy he well understood and some of the professors who pretend to teach that science would come off badly damaged in a contest with him if they should attack the quantity theory of money or attempt a defense of the trusts. Long life of Uncle Swaine. He has lived a life that will make his last years his happiest years. There are many more pop farmers like him scattered over Nebraska. They have applied the science that they have studied and in these years of prosperity they have prepared for adversity. They have no mortgages on their farms and the banks hold no "cattle paper" against them.

The Independent wishes to say to the faithful men who have written so kindly to the editor and are so enthusiastic in regard to the good work that this paper is doing, that there are at least a thousand letters on the editorial desks to which it has been impossible to make replies, on account of the pressure upon the time of the editors in fighting this state campaign. But don't cease to write. Every one of those letters have been read and many of them have furnished new inspiration to go on with the fight. After this campaign is over there will be more time to read and more room for letters from our enthusiastic correspondents.

### SAM PARKS

Ray Stannard Baker deserves great credit for the admirable manner in which he has shown in the November number of McClure's Magazine how ridiculous is the current belief that a certain, heretofore unknown individual named Sam Parks has caused the recent tie-ups in the building trades down in New York.

Under the caption, "The Labor Bosh—the Trust's New Tool," Mr. Baker shows conclusively that Parks is simply an effect—not a cause at all. That Sam is really a man of ability in his line, and a peculiarly efficient grafter, Mr. Baker does not deny; but on the contrary goes to some pains to relate instances showing the shrewdness of the walking delegate of the house-smiths' and bridgeworkers' union, an organization of some 4,500 members.

Mr. Baker finds that in 1897 the house-smith received \$2.50 a day; and in 1903 he receives \$4.50 a day. On the surface this is due to Parks, who is credited with the present effective organization of the ironworkers, and thus "has made life better worth living—at least in a material sense—for 25,000 New Yorkers." To this fact is due the hold Parks has on his fellow workmen. They know he is a grafter—but they know their wages have been

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increased, as they view it, because of Parks, and they prefer \$4.50 a day under a grafting walking delegate to \$2.50 under no organization. And one must possess a superabundance of ethical sense to blame them very much.

But Mr. Baker finds that the cause of graft is much higher up than Sam Parks. He discovers that Parks is simply an instrument in the hands of the George A. Fuller Construction company, a corporation capitalized at 20 millions, which in turn is an instrument in the hands of the United States Realty and Construction company, capitalized at 66 millions, and that back of this is the Standard Oil company, represented by James Stillman; the United States steel corporation, represented by Charles M. Schwab and E. C. Converse; railroad interests represented by Cornelius Vanderbilt and John W. Gates; banking and other big financial interests represented by James H. Hyde, vice president of the Equitable Life Insurance company, James Speyer, Augustus D. Julliard, C. G. Haven, and others.

The Fuller company "is the trust idea applied to the building industry." It brought Parks from Chicago and has used him as an instrument for breaking down competition. The trust never has a strike—except when it is profitable to have one. Its competitors are continually harrassed by strikes. Parks and organized labor get the blame—the subsidized press sees to that.

There are a number of useful lessons to be learned from a careful reading of Mr. Baker's article. One of these is that the socialists are reckoning without their host in their attempt to build up a "class conscious" proletarian party. Apparently these house-smiths are just as cowardly regarding their \$4.50 jobs as the "middle class" property owner is over the little property he owns. If the Fuller company wants these 4,500 house-smiths to vote the republican ticket—while they are drawing \$4.50 a day—there isn't much doubt as to what they would do. They'd swallow their "class consciousness" and vote 'er straight.

The revolt from the degeneration caused by the worship of Mammon has been begun first in England. Rita is

bringing the accusation that society in England is rotten at the top and Mrs. Russell declares that it is drunken and vicious at the bottom. No wonder that such sociologists as Prof. Hobson entertain the gravest fears for England's future. On this side of the Atlantic the same sort of degeneration is becoming more and more apparent as the days go by.

### THE INDEPENDENT AN EDUCATOR

For a number of years Harvard university has placed a subscription for The Independent through an eastern agency, evidently intended for the library of that institution. That The Independent is read and appreciated by the students of Harvard is evidenced by a recent letter from L. C. Marshall, a department of economics, Ohio Wesleyan university, Delaware, O., asking that a copy of The Independent be sent to the library of that university. Mr. Marshall says: "As a graduate of Harvard university, I came to know your publication, The Independent, and have looked over its files with much interest." Last year he was called to the department of economics in the Ohio Wesleyan. He now desires The Independent in his new field of work where "the general student body will have access to it and be an object of special attention and study" by his students.

The Independent is glad to place this department upon its complimentary list, and would do the same for any other educational institution making application. The Independent trusts that Prof. Marshall's students may profit by reading it, and that they may feel free to write criticisms of anything in it, for the advancement of the science of political economy.

The Independent acknowledges receipt from Dr. J. D. Burdick, Ft. Gibson, I. T., of a pamphlet giving some cogent reasons why the Indian territory should be admitted as a "state" without being tied to Oklahoma. The doctor is one of the populist national committeemen for his territory, and a good worker for whatever cause he espouses. He suggests as a name for the territory either "Jefferson," which would be most popular, or Tahleehoma, an Indian name which would balance nicely with Oklahoma.