

AN INDEPENDENT PARTY

The Independent has made the best fight that it could for an "independent people's party." What such a party might accomplish is shown by the independent action of the Irish nationalists. That party, few in numbers, has accomplished what the great Gladstone, with the mighty liberal party behind him, failed to accomplish. The success of the Irish party has stimulated the effort in England to organize another independent party—the labor party. It already has thirteen members in parliament, but up to this time has acted with the liberals. It now proposes to cut loose from that party and stand on its own platforms. It will be "independent," nominate its own candidates and have its own headquarters in London. It does not propose to in all cases nominate candidates who are members of the labor party, but it will nominate men in either of the other parties if it is concluded that by that means it can best serve the cause of labor. Its members will not enter the caucus of any other party or give obedience to the "whips" of the other organizations. It is thought by that means the cause of labor can be advanced, just as the Irish have advanced their cause by the same policy.

That is the position that has been taken by The Independent in regard to the people's party in this country. The day of bi-party government is past. It has been abandoned in every civilized nation except England and the United States, and since the organization of the nationalist party by Parnell, it has been practically abandoned in England. That was the object of the Denver conference. The action taken at Denver has put new life in the populist party everywhere and in no other state more so than right here in Nebraska.

The immediate program in England of the labor party is an eight-hour day in the mines, legislative assaults upon "slums" and improvement in the housing of the wage-earners in the large towns and cities, old age pensions, better and more education for workingmen's children at the expense of the state, the amendment of the workmen's compensation act and more radical temperance laws.

BRITISH SILVER DOLLARS

The tricks that the plutocrats of England and America (and together they make up one gang) have played with the coinage of silver are almost innumerable. The viceroy of India issued a decree in 1900, authorizing the mint of Calcutta to coin British silver dollars of 416 grains and made them a full legal tender in the Straight settlements, with a provision that they were to retain their full legal tender if they only weighed 411 grains which made the amount of silver in them 1 1/2 grains less than the amount of silver in the American dollar. The gold bugs of England as well as those of America soon found that it was impossible to make a universal gold standard, and the falling off in their trade with all India and Asia soon brought them around. Like the republicans in this country they went to coining silver with a rush, while at the same time they kept up their talk about "good money." The little arrangement to coin silver at the Calcutta mint was to head off the circulation of the Mexican dollar, and the putting the "limit of tolerance" at 411 grains was just a small steal of the same character as the "clipped coins" that so befuddled Lord McCauley.

BETTER JOB THAN THE CZAR'S

The policy of the republican party is to tax millions of dollars out of the people above the necessary expenses of the government and then turn those millions over to the national bankers without interest. In all this campaign there has not been a single suggestion from Shaw, Roberts or any other man connected with the administration that the taxes should be re-

duced to an amount equal to the wants of the government. The banks now have about \$170,000,000 which has been taxed out of the people and given free to the bankers. Those bankers realize at least 4 per cent on that money, or \$6,800,000. The plain proposition is this: The republican party taxes the people and makes them give \$6,800,000 a year to the national bankers. What is the difference between that and taxes on the people to maintain a king and a lot of nobles? The national bankers receive twice as much free from the Americans as the czar of Russia does from all the people of his immense empire. Besides getting twice as much money taxed out of the people as the Russian czar, the American bankers have a much sfter snap in numerous other ways. They do not have to watch the nihilists, the anarchists from fear of being shot on sight. They even have an easier time than the French aristocracy before the revolution. There is no "third estate" threatening them with the guillotine. The peasants of this country just walk up, pay their taxes and then go and vote 'er straight for the fellows who live off the taxes that the peasant pays.

"GRAFT" AND "GRAFTING"

A year ago some of the Boston cultured set criticised The Independent for using the words "graft" and "grafting." Now those words are found more frequently in the Boston dailies than any other two words in the English language, all of which goes to show that this paper is as far in advance of Boston in the use of good, forceful language as it is in political economy. David Starr Jordan of Stanford university says: "The use of public authority to extort money is a form of robbery, and we have a good strong word to cover all such things, the word graft."

W. J. Bryan's definition is as follows: "The word 'graft' has been so frequently employed of late that it has come to have a technical meaning. It is used to describe the illegitimate profit which a corrupt public servant makes out of his office. The most common form of graft is in the form of a rebate on contracts made by the official for the public. The postoffice investigation shows that several employes were interested in contracts made in their departments. Of course, it is plain, barefaced stealing."

THE BIBLE IN COURT

There has been a good deal said during the campaign about reading the Bible in the schools. But a judge down in Savannah, Ga., read a passage from the Bible to a jury in giving his instructions to them. It was a divorce case and each party had brought charges against the other. The judge in giving his instructions read the following from the eighth chapter of St. John:

"Now, Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned, but what sayest thou?" This, they said, tempting him that they might have to excuse him, but Jesus stooped down, and, with his finger, wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. And He lifted himself up and said unto them: "He that is without sin among you let him first cast a stone at her."

The judge read this to enforce his instruction that when a party seeks justice he must come into court with clean hands. The jury went out and in a few minutes came back with a verdict giving both parties a divorce. What would Uncle Dan Freeman do to that judge?

ARISTOCRATIC GAMBLING

Populists have always held that boards of trade and stock exchanges, while primarily organized to facilitate actual business, are in fact gambling concerns, in which the spirit of gambling is the chief incentive. In legitimate commerce both parties to a trade are benefited, but in gambling when one is benefited the other must lose.

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To what extent this gambling inspires the men who operate on the stock exchange was shown before the last dividend was declared by the steel trust. There were thousands of bets made upon what the dividend would be on the common stock, the dividend was fought and sold by the hundred thousands. It had been paying \$1 a share. The ruling price on the stock exchange was 70 and 75 cents. For two days the greatest stock exchange of the world did practically nothing but gamble in various way on what this dividend would be. When it was declared it was only 50 cents a share and that was 25 cents more than the trust earned during the quarter.

All this was straight gambling. No dividends were actually bought or sold. The loser simply paid to the winner the difference between his guess and the actual payment that was made by the trust. That sort of business is the chief occupation of stock exchanges and boards of trade the country over. The police are ever after the crap shooter, but never hear of the gambling on these boards and exchanges. The crap shooter makes no contribution to campaign funds and puts up no money for "graft."

Collier's Weekly asks the following question: "To form a vast combination, knowing it to be so watered as to be unsafe an to bargain for your own gains at the expense of those who trust you—what is the name for that?" The Independent has never been at a loss for names to designate these sort of wretches. It has called them pirates, robbers, thieves. The editor of Collier's Weekly ought to know without asking.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Startling conclusions continue to be derived from the discovery of radium. The latest announcement is in accordance with what The Independent said when the discovery was first announced, i. e., there is life in matter. The scientists are now taking notice of what mechanics have long asserted. The barber says a razor gets "tired" and if laid away to "rest" for a while, it will again perform its functions. It is as well known that machinery shows fatigue, and that finally it becomes incompetent, but will recover if it be allowed a rest. Locomotive engines exhibit the same traits; indeed many engineers declare that they can recognize that their wonderful

charges get tired out and need rest. It is now announced by the scientists that there is a close similarity between the action of stimulants and narcotics on the human body and on metals. The still more startling announcement is made that "the observation of phenomena in nature leads one to the belief that there is no such thing as death—meaning the perfect impotency of restoring activity." Religion and science are getting very near an agreement.

PLUTOCRACY AND ANARCHY

The only man outside of the state who gave Tom Johnson any assistance in his fight in Ohio, aside from the speeches made by Bryan, was Congressman Baker of Brooklyn—the man who sent back his railroad pass. He was sent down into the hotbed of McLean influence in Hamilton county. In one of his last speeches Tom Johnson said:

"This evening I received a telegram from Congressman Baker of Brooklyn, N. Y., who came out to Ohio to help us in this campaign and who has been holding street corner meetings in Cincinnati. Today he was clubbed by a policeman, run over by a sprinkling wagon and finally arrested. If they have to run over the speakers and bring out wagons to sprinkle the crowds away it is a pretty good sign that they are worried. I am glad to say that Mr. Baker was not seriously injured and that he did not stay locked up very long."

Mr. Bryan was also refused permission to speak from the postoffice steps in Toledo, O., and had to go to another place after the crowd had assembled to hear him. These things show anarchistic tendencies of plutocracy. They are sowing to the wind and some day they will reap the whirlwind.

The cuts that have been given to the paid editorial writing in the dailies are making some of them wince. The Chicago Tribune makes a reply to these attacks. It says: "Wouldn't it be helpful, though, if the space which is now given to abusing writers for earning their living were given to refuting what they write?" Let some one attempt to refute some of the economic rot that the hired writers of that paper put out and see what the result would be. Not a line of it would ever appear in type. The thing has been often tried and always with one result. The reply went to the waste basket.