

RE-DISGRACED

The republicans disgraced this state until it was a stench in the nostrils of the people all over the Union. They not only robbed the state treasury, impoverished the schools, let the teachers go without their salaries for a long time, but brought demoralization and grafting into every county in the state. Then the populists got control. They prosecuted the thieves, doubled the apportionment to the schools and during the hardest years that Nebraska ever saw reduced the state debt \$600,000.

Then the republicans got the government again. In good times, when taxes are easily paid, they have increased the state debt to \$2,000,000, and engaged in the same schemes of grafting all over the state and from top to bottom that brought disgrace upon Nebraska in the days of Mosher, Bartley and the old gang. Their United States senator is indicted in this state, and their state auditor in Wyoming; their late adjutant general is now charged with getting away with \$2,000 worth of blankets. What else will develop in the near future no one can guess, but that there is plenty more to come every one believes.

It seems that there has been a typographical error in the head-lines and writing in all the republican papers. Instead of Nebraska being redeemed it has been re-disgraced. These editors hereafter should see to it that the letters following "re" should be rearranged so that the word will be "re-disgraced" instead of "redeemed."

The Independent is not ready to endorse Mr. Groot's estimate of Tom L. Johnson in this issue. Opinions are often colored somewhat by personal animosities, of which the public is not generally informed. This may or may not be the case with Mr. Groot. The mayor of Cleveland has many qualities which, at this distance, The Independent cannot but admire. It by no means regards Mr. Johnson as infallible or as representing every reform which The Independent would like to see effected. But, on the whole, it has believed that Mr. Johnson's heart is in the right place, even if his head does lead him to advocate certain financial measures which The Independent regards as inimical to the public welfare. Mr. Groot is undoubtedly right in his regard for the importance of the money question; but The Independent is not ready to believe that Mr. Johnson is a "man without political or business honor." Doubtless Mr. Johnson's scheme for uniting the two wings of democracy was faulty—Clarke should not have been nominated—but that it was rather a piece of political blundering than otherwise, The Independent would prefer to believe.

WAITS FOR AN OPENING

Walter Wellman says that since Hanna's recent sojourn in New York city, Hanna gives it out that if Judge Parker is nominated for the presidency by the democrats that a large share of the influence of the money power will be thrown against Roosevelt. Especially will the Rockefeller crowd contribute large sums to defeat him. Hanna says that Jim Hill will fight Roosevelt and that Hill can carry one or two of the northwestern states over to the democrats. All the plutocratic correspondents are saying that the republican leaders in Washington are acknowledging that it will require the flight of their lives to elect Roosevelt with a gold democrat candidate and platform put up against him.

It does not require very much acumen to discover the aim of all this. These articles are written by correspondents who have been "sent for" by Hanna and his followers. It is simply a part of a plan to open up a way to get rid of Roosevelt, for plutocracy wants the original program carried out, that is, two candidates for

the president, about whom Whitney on the democratic side and Aldrich on the republican side have no fears or doubts. It is true that Roosevelt has as yet done nothing to seriously interfere with the trusts—that he hasn't the scalp of a single trust hanging at his belt—but the plutocratic leaders are afraid of him—he is too "rantankerous" and erratic. They all know that the whole financial fabric hangs, as it were, by a thread, and the whole thing may drop to pieces in spite of all that they can do if the president does not always and every time take orders from them. Under the circumstances as they exist at the present time, "Brer Hanna, he lay low," starts up all sorts of rumors and waits for an opening.

The Kansas Agitator, Garnett, says that there will not be more than three democratic papers in Kansas next year who will refuse to support the presidential nominee, "be he Cleveland, Gorman or Hill," notwithstanding that "these papers have nearly all denounced Cleveland as a traitor to his country and have declared their allegiance to Bryan." The Agitator says, however, that David Overmyer is one of the Kansas democrats who refuses to support Cleveland. The most astounding news is that former Supreme Judge Frank Doster, a populist, favors Cleveland's nomination—because he believes the Stuffed Prophet's election would kill the republican party, after which the democratic party could be killed off without difficulty. "We believe Judge Doster is sincere in this matter," says the Agitator, "but we believe he is as badly mistaken as was the bull that tried to shove the locomotive off the track." A belief in which The Independent concurs.

DESTRUCTION AHEAD

The reasons behind Chamberlain's propaganda in England are of a different character from what have been generally given in this country. How England is to compete with the United States is a very serious question. Here we have a continent of almost virgin soil richer than the old world has ever known. There the soil is becoming exhausted and costly manures must be used to raise a crop. Here the coal lies in inexhaustible quantities almost upon the surface of the earth. There the most profitable mines have been exhausted and the remainder of the coal is hundreds of feet below the surface. Many of the metals England does not produce at all, and here we have mountains of iron, unlimited stores of copper, large supplies of gold, silver and many other metals. Of necessity England must do something. The London World sums up the matter as follows:

"England, in regard to foreign nations who come into our markets, but will not allow us to come on fair terms into theirs, is like a shopkeeper whose neighbors are ready to sell to him, but who refuse to let him sell to them. As he can buy only by means of what he sells, he is on the road to ruin. But in better times he has been able to invest his money well, and he may possibly be in the possession of carriages and horses, by which he may command the carrying trade of his district. This is England's position. She has investments in foreign countries, and she is mistress of the greatest part of the carrying trade of the world, the interest on the former, and the payment for the latter, supplying for the present the constant decline of her exports. The evil day when those resources may fail us may be distant, and now therefore is the time to prepare for it. When it is close at hand, it will be too late."

When we consider the natural advantages the United States has over England the necessity of "protection" is one of those things that no pop can find out.

Joe Bartley smiles as he remarks: "It begins to appear that I was not the only one."

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AT LAST THEY CONQUER

Bryan in his Thanksgiving speech in London captured the hearts and forced the applause of not only those who heard him, but of the whole city, for much of the speech was printed in all the London dailies. In the following extract the readers will recognize the doctrine preached by The Independent, though clothed in different language. In his Thanksgiving day speech in London Mr. Bryan said:

"I am glad the world has come to recognize there is something stronger than physical force. None stated it better than your great countryman, Carlyle, when he said 'thought was stronger than parks of artillery and ultimately molded the world like soft clay, and behind thought was love.'"

"There never was a wise head that did not have behind it a generous heart."

"So the world is coming to understand that armies and navies, however strong, are impotent to stop thought."

In the article, entitled "Let the Church Fear," in The Independent of November 19, these words will be found:

"There is a greater power in the world than money. It has trampled armies and money under its feet often times in the past. It is righteousness. Churches may become corrupt. They may accept bribes from the robber and extortioner and keep silence, but righteousness will in the end prevail."

Thought, love, righteousness, this trinity will conquer. We are fighting along the same lines. There are years, sometimes ages, of defeat, but at last they conquer.

ELECTION FIGURES

A friend of The Independent, living in Tennessee, who has a knack for figures, sends us, without a word of comment, what the recent Nebraska election seems to tell him.

He divides the forces of Nebraska into two hostile camps: The Jeffersonians and the plutocrats. The former are made up of populists and Bryan democrats; the latter of republicans and Cleveland democrats. He believes that in 1893 these forces stood:

Plutocrats90,668
Jeffersonians84,573

The plutocratic strength was made up of 72,032 republicans and 18,636

democrats; the Jeffersonians of 65,666 populists and 18,909 democratic democrats.

Ten years later (1903), based on an average of the votes for judge and regents, he estimates the relative strength as follows:

Plutocrats99,938
Jeffersonians78,586

In this calculation he continues to count 18,636 plutocratic democrats and gives the remaining 81,302 to the republican party proper—all, however, voting together to defeat the Jeffersonians. He divides the Jeffersonian vote into 68,507 populists and 10,079 democratic democrats. Here is where our friend falls down in his analysis. The democratic vote, although smaller than the populist, is certainly much more than ten thousand. A good many who were originally democrats, and afterwards joined the people's party, have, since "fusion," again allied themselves directly with the democratic party—how many, of course, the figures could not show, and nobody knows.

His analysis is not encouraging. Ten years ago the Jeffersonians lacked but six thousand of breaking even with the plutocrats; today they are 21,000 behind. Our friend, S. P. Gibson of Star, Neb., suggests—and there is merit in it—that fully one-third of the populists who voted for Honest John Powers in 1890 have been crowded out of the state through the foreclosure of mortgages. Their places have been taken by republicans and plutocratic democrats from Iowa and Illinois, largely.

The Public of November 28 contains a supplement giving a fine half-tone engraving of John Z. White, one of the most industrious single taxers in Chicago. Mr. White at one time studied law with the intention of practicing, but, becoming disgusted with the pettifoggery and chicanery of law practice, he abandoned his plan, entered a printing office and has since earned his living as a journeyman compositor. He polled 8,484 votes as the people's party candidate for congress in 1894 in a triangular contest, and in 1896, as the fusion candidate, polled 28,309. Mr. White is now devoting his entire time to the single tax propaganda.