

down ..... 677,093.10

Leaving the net debt when the present "redeemers" took charge the sum of \$1,727,447.72

Three years of republican "redemption" has increased the debt..... 535,723.49

Leaving the present debt. \$2,263,177.21

For convenience of those who dislike exact figures and delight in "round numbers," let us say that the fusionists cut down the debt at the rate of about \$170,000 a year, and the republican "redeemers" have increased it about the same figure each year since they took charge. Great is "redemption!" "Stand pat!" "Let well enough alone!" "Vote 'er straight!" It is barely possible that if the gentlemen who "owe" Joe Bartley, and those who have been trafficking in post-offices, army blankets, and oil inspectorships, could be induced to "put it back," some trifling reduction might be made in the present floating debt.

(Since the above was written, former Adjutant General Colby has "put back" something less than three thousand dollars. This was done in the dead hours of night and next morning the dailies recorded the fact that the federal grand jury at Omaha had indicted him for embezzlement.)

While on this head, I am reminded of a recent editorial in the "Evening Edition of the Morning State Journal," alias the Lincoln Evening News, in which a labored effort is made to exonerate Governor Mickey and his fellow executive state officers of any blame for the present condition of the state debt. The whole trouble lies in the fact as the News views it, "that the legislatures are growing more and more extravagant." The News admits that the present state of affairs "is an arraignment of the party in power and most persons regard it as the symbolism of wastefulness," but insists that—

"The remedy of our democratic and populist friends is to change the political complexion of the administration, but experience has not proved that this is any cure all. The reason is plain: Honesty and efficiency are personal qualifications, not political ones. There have been defalcations and breaches of trust under republican as well as democratic administrations and scandals and extravagance have found shelter under one kind as well as under the other."

I am free to admit that honesty and efficiency are personal qualifications. Being a populist or democrat is not per se a badge of honesty and efficiency any more than being a republican is per se a badge of dishonesty. Most men are naturally honest. They become dishonest through the influence of environment. The real reason why populists and democrats gave the state of Nebraska an honest, economical administration of affairs on the whole (I freely admit it was not perfect) is because these men represented and had back of them the "middle class"—farmers and small business men of the state—and not because they were at heart materially different from the average republican official. And the real reason why republican officials have proven incompetent, extravagant—and often dishonest—is not because they are at heart any worse than men generally, but because they represent and have back of them as the "real power behind the throne," the big corporations. Now, the big corporations pay relatively lighter taxes than the "middle class" farmers and business men, hence, do not object to wasteful ex-

penditures, especially when those expenditures are used to build up a political machine which will keep them in control, and thus prevent interference with their robberies of the consuming public. The average republican official owes his election to the railroads and not to the "middle class" citizens; he is encouraged by his backers to build up a strong "machine," no matter what the cost—for the other fellow must pay for it.

But populists and democrats in office have no such sanctions. Every item of extravagance is felt by those to whom they owe their election, and as the "middle class" has no special privileges to ask for at the hands of the legislature, the natural result is a better, more economical and more honest administration by democrats and populists than can be had at the hands of republicans. It is not so much a matter of personality as environment; not so much the officials themselves as it is "the power behind the throne."

It is true, as the News says, that "the legislatures are growing more and more extravagant." And for the reason that they are growing more and more republican. The majority are republicans, elected by railroad influence, and under obligations to the railroads and other corporations. To a great extent, too, legislatures respond to the demands for appropriations made by the executive officers and heads of institutions. There may be some pruning in places but as a general rule these administrative officials get what they really go after. A glance at the total appropriations made in recent years will show why the state debt is increasing—and that, too, in the face of greatly increased taxation.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Session.	Politics.	Amount.
1895.....	Republican	\$2,784,684.60
1897.....	Populist	2,335,843.40
1899.....	Republican	2,591,373.60
1901.....	Republican	2,875,289.51
1903.....	Republican	3,740,280.70

In other words, the railroad republican state officers now conducting Sunday school conventions or trying to get out of the hands of sheriffs in other states, have been given license, by the legislature of 1903, to expend in the two years ending March 31, 1905, exactly \$1,404,437.30 more money than the populist legislature licensed populist state officers to expend in a similar two years beginning April 1, 1897. The populist officials really expended but little over two millions of the 1897 appropriation; but every indication points out that the present "redeemers" will expend all of the 1903 appropriations and, perhaps, run up some "deficiencies."

Local taxpayers are coming nearly every day into The Independent office with a wonderful tale of woe because their taxes this year "are so heavy." But taxes must be fully 60 per cent heavier than in 1897-8-9, or the state debt will pile up extremely fast, because the appropriations of 1903 are more than 60 per cent heavier than in 1897. Yes, taxes are heavy this year—but just watch them grow next year under the new revenue law.

In answer to Major Daily's fourth question, permit me to quote from the constitution:

"All funds belonging to the state for educational purposes, the interest and income whereof only are to be used, shall be deemed trust funds held by the state, and the state shall supply all losses, that may in any manner accrue, so that the same shall remain forever inviolate and undiminished"—Sec. 3, art. VIII.

Hence, it seems clear that if the state shall fail to recover from Bartley and his bondsmen the \$225,587.50 of trust funds which is still charged against him, then the legislature is in duty bound to appropriate enough out of the general fund to make it good. In other words, our poetical friend, Dr. Bixby of the State Journal, might now with perfect propriety begin calling upon the state to "put it back," inasmuch as it seems probable that Bartley will not, and his personal friends who "owe" him are afraid to.

I ought to mention here that in the foregoing figures no account is taken of the big warrant which Bartley embezzled and for which he served time in the penitentiary. So far as the state treasurer's books are concerned, that transaction appears just as any other might. A warrant of \$180,161.75, drawn against the general fund, was issued to Bartley "for to reimburse the sinking fund;" but Bartley forgot to "put it back" into the sinking fund! Instead he found a lot of careless bank officials up in Omaha who cashed the warrant without even reading it—at least that is the way the "testimony" appears—and he paid off a lot of political debts with the swag to certain prominent republican poli-

ticians, who have for a number of years been quaking in their boots because "Joe" might some day "squeeze" on them. Of course, this feature is all ancient history and proper only for the archaeologist.

CHARLES Q. DE FRANCE.

The Panama Comedy

It is a comedy, and very well played, too. It is a comedy, and, being mainly French, naturally, the school of Moliere; cynical, even saturnine; Colombia, the intriguing, wicked old beldame, to be circumvented and despoiled; Panama, the none too virtuous damsel, eager to be carried off; Teddy, the gay Lothario! Who shall play the part of Tartuffe?—Henry Watterson.

CHRISTIANITY AND MONOPOLY.

Editor Independent: For the last ten or twelve years the money power has had a powerful ally in the Christian church. Nearly every denomination has been more or less guilty in this respect. Whenever the great money kings and trust magnates needed the services of the church they were very liberal with their contributions towards its institutions and their money always proved to be well spent, "for the gift blindeth the wise and perverteth the words of the righteous."

But in these latter days when we pops are about to give up our noble fight, we find that here and there the clergy is getting its eyes wide open to the fact that these plutocratic contributors are undermining the very foundation of the church. For instance, Der Christliche Apologete, published by Jennings & Pye, Cincinnati, O., official organ of the German M. E. church, in an editorial several years ago indulged in very loathsome flattery of "Coal Oil Johnny" and wound up with congratulating its Baptist brethren on possessing such a pillar in the church and wishing for a similar one in the Methodist church. But notice the editor's recent change of mind. In the following article he has this to say of Mr. Rockefeller:

"ROCKEFELLER'S RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.

"America's richest man, John D. Rockefeller, is, as is well known, not reserved with his religious profession, but unfortunately his deeds are largely at variance with his profession. His minister frequently calls on him to speak a word during the testimonial hour which follows the Sunday morning sermon. At such an occasion Mr. Rockefeller recently said, among other things: 'The personal comfort and inner peace which lie for me in the Christian religion make me often wish for an opportunity to tell it to all the people from the pulpit.' His wish to change his vocation with the minister shows his respect for the ministry, and one could delight in the glorious profession if the deeds of the man were in harmony with it. But a man who in three decades accumulated nearly a billion dollars—his wealth is estimated at \$965,000,000—can scarcely have come by it justly and honestly. Through heartless manipulations in the oil business he has crowded every competitor to the wall. He successfully evaded the laws of the land and marched over the vast realms of ruined existences like the great Napoleon over bloody battlefields. In business he knows no respect, feeling, nor generosity. In his financial transactions he is as cold as a refrigerator, and very few bright points may be found in his mercantile career.

"We recently mentioned that the price of coal oil was raised from 6 to 10 cents within the period of four weeks. The oil monopoly does not give any reason for this raise. Fifty million dollars flowed into the coffers of the Standard Oil company by means of this heartless trick. This company has often boasted of the poor being its customers and is in that undoubtedly correct. For next to bread nothing is in the hovels of the poor as indispensable as coal oil. According to the recent raise in price these poor customers of Rockefeller are obliged to pay from 12 to 16 cents retail price—double the amount they had to pay two or three years ago.

"Like a vampire the Standard Oil company sucks the blood from the poor man. The long winter nights are now at hand when more oil is used and hence a good opportunity to reap advantage. The poor man is utterly helpless if the oil king takes a notion to put on the screws in order to add to his uncounted millions over night another million. This unlimited control surpasses the power of the czar, and one does not wonder that it is intimated that the management

of his monopoly should be confiscated by our government, which is not possible, to be sure, as that would be equal to an overthrow of our present social order. But it remains nevertheless a fact that men like Rockefeller furnish the weapons into the hand of radical socialism, and contribute more to a social overthrow than all other means taken together. It is not necessary for Mr. Rockefeller to mount the pulpit to make a profession, his actions speak loud enough, but, alas, not in the interest of the Christian religion."

The above would, with a few exceptions, do credit to any populist paper. The Independent included.  
FREDERICK G. BOELTS,  
Central City, Neb., R. F. D. 2.

HOW CLARK BUYS A BOND

Which Guarantees His Family an Estate, if He Dies, and Himself a Home, if He Lives.

Mr. Clark, aged thirty-five, is manager of the elevator in the town of Salem. The position pays him a good salary, enabling him to support his family and lay aside about \$200 per year. Though he is now living comfortably, he realizes that he must devise some way of providing an income for his declining years.

His idea is to buy a farm. During a period of meditation as to whether or not he shall purchase a certain quarter section of land which is for sale at \$5,000, he is interviewed by a representative of the Old Line Bankers Life Insurance company of Lincoln, Nebraska, who endeavors to interest him in Life Insurance.

Hardly does the agent get well started, when he is interrupted by Mr. Clark who tells him of his intention to buy a farm. He states that he is about to make a small payment on the purchase price and will, if the agent can offer anything better be an interested listener.

"Well," said the agent, "suppose you buy a farm worth \$5,000 by paying the small sum of \$175.25 annually without interest, for twenty years, the contract for same containing a clause specifying that, should you die at any time, the party from whom you buy the land will cancel all deferred payments, and give your estate a clear title; or if you live to the maturity of the contract, give you not only the deed to the land, but pay you as large a percentage of profit as you could reasonably expect to make from the property. Would you buy a farm on those terms?"

Of course Mr. Clark was interested, and since the Company secures each and every contract issued with a deposit of approved securities with the State of Nebraska, he expressed a willingness to become a party to such an agreement.

"Well," continued the agent, "if you will pay annually to the Old Line Bankers Life Insurance Company of Nebraska the sum of \$175.25 they will, if you die at any time, pay to whom you may name the sum of \$5,000. If you live twenty years, they will give you a cash settlement consisting of the guaranteed reserve and an estimated surplus, amounting to \$5,491.25. You will readily see that you receive \$1,986.25 more than you pay in, which is better than four per cent compound interest. Then, too, having the assurance that, should you die, you would leave a comfortable estate." Mr. Clark bought the insurance, and what Mr. Clark did you can do.

Permit our agent to explain a contract to you. If you do not own all the land you care to farm, ask for circular No. 1 which shows "How Jones Bought and Paid for a \$6,000 farm." If you have a mortgaged farm, call for Circular No. 2, which shows "How Samuels Paid a \$2,000 Mortgage."

For further information address the OLD LINE BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Send a list of "heart of oak" populists to C. Q. De France, Lincoln, Neb.

Will You Write a Postal

So a Sick One May Get Well?

Send no money—simply a postal card, giving the name of some one who needs help. Tell me the book to send.

Then I will do this—I will arrange with a druggist near him so that he may take six bottles of "Shoop's Restorative." He may take it a month at my risk. If it succeeds the cost is \$5.50. If it fails, the druggist will bill the cost to me.

That month's test will show you what the remedy can do. It is the easiest way to convince you. It is the only way to induce all who need help to accept it.

I make the offer to multiply my cures, and I am willing to trust the cured ones to be fair with me.

In the past 12 years I have furnished my Restorative to hundreds of thousands of sick ones on just these terms, and 20 out of 40 have paid gladly, because they got well. I pay just as willingly when one says I have failed.

The remedy is my discovery, the result of a lifetime's work. I have perfected it by watching results in thousands of the most difficult cases that physicians ever meet. I know what it will do.

My success comes from strengthening weak inside organs, and my Restorative is the only remedy that does that. When an organ is weak I bring back the nerve power which alone operates every vital organ. It is like giving an engine more steam. I give the weak organ power to do its duty, and there is no other way to make a weak organ well.

Can you conceive of a sick one who will neglect such a treatment, when I take the entire risk.

Simply state which book you want and address Dr. Shoop, Box 9940, Racine, Wis.

BOOK NO. 1—ON THE HEART  
BOOK NO. 2—ON THE LUNGS  
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Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured with six or two bottles. All druggists.

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