

The Nebraska Independent

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T. H. TIBBLES, Editor.
C. Q. DE FRANCE, Associate Editor.
F. D. EAGER, Business Manager.

Dr. J. F. Duncan, McShan, Ala.: "Give the two old twins the d—l."

W. A. M. Smalley, Gabriel Mills, Tex.: "I am strong in the faith and ready to fight to a finish and gain the victory or go down trying."

D. P. Rice, Occidental, Cal.: "I am heartily in favor of the plan of enrolling the Old Guard. Have sent in over forty names of Californians."

T. W. Ray, Lols, Ga.: "I like The Independent very much in every respect and find it a paper that ought to be read by every populist in the land."

C. M. Gooch, Briar Creek, Mo.: "I will help you out, rest assured. We will yet contest every inch of the ground against the enemy of good government."

N. A. Crum, Pisgah, Mo.: "Enroll me as one of the Old Guard of Populism. . . . I expect to remain a populist the rest of my life and to stay in the middle of the road."

Dr. Brose S. Horne, Marion, Ind.: "I admire The Independent very much and also indorse the Old Guard movement. The nominations should be made without conventions."

H. B. Hewitt, Stafford, Kas.: "State taxes here have increased 100 per cent since the republican party got in power and the office-seekers are standing around with their mouths wide open."

W. S. Osborn, Kaufman, Tex.: "I like to read The Independent, and believe it is a better paper than any other reform paper I take. Keep on shooting the hot shot of reform until victory is won."

T. S. Scott, Hiatt, Mo.: "I fully indorse and approve your plan of enrolling the Old Guard. I think it the only consistent plan to get your committee fully in touch with the true populists of America."

J. A. Billings, Somers, Mont., a Peter Cooper greenbacker in 1876, a Weaver supporter in 1892, thinks he has "found the home of every true populist in the socialist party." It all depends upon the viewpoint, Bro. Billings. It may seem so to you—and for you, no doubt, it is; but there are many thousands of populists who think otherwise. Even though The Independent cannot indorse socialism, it says: "Better be a socialist and know why, than be an old party mullet head and swallow what some leader tells you."

LEGAL TENDER

Mr. Tibbles' experience on Wall street with a scratched silver dollar, calls to mind the fact that there is much misunderstanding as to the extent of "legal tender." Captain Ashby went into that matter fully in his "Money and the Taxing Power."

As Captain Ashby pointed out, the power of tender applies only in the public offices and in the courts. Coin'd money passes from hand to hand in ordinary business transactions by the voluntary act of those engaged in making the exchanges—and not because there is any law compelling one man to offer or another to accept any particular thing. Every man engaged in ordinary business in New York has an undoubted legal right to refuse a scratched silver dollar offered him in exchange for anything he may have to sell. He has the same right to refuse a torn greenback or a scratched gold piece. Of course, it requires something bordering upon a conspiracy "in restraint of trade" to get all the business men in a particular locality to refuse to accept in exchange a silver dollar because it has some slight scratch upon it.

There might be some way of reaching the culprits for conspiracy—but there is nothing in the law of legal tender to prevent them. In fact, the legal tender power of a silver dollar is subject to the exception, "except where otherwise stipulated in the contract." And these Wall streeters "stipulate" that scratched silver dollars will not go!

GENERAL VIFQUAIN

Death has claimed another Nebraska pioneer and taken from the scene of earthly strife that grand old soldier and statesman, Victor Vifquain. Although a man of national reputation, both as soldier and diplomat, his loss to Nebraska and the nation cannot be measured by the numbers who will mourn his death; for General Vifquain was not a man to seek cheap notoriety. A thorough soldier, he bore his honors with becoming grace, and sought no opportunity to "show off" and take advantage of the effects produced upon the multitude by a sight of the trappings of war.

General Vifquain was a true statesman, and frequently astonished his friends by his remarkable memory and grasp upon world politics. His long experience as an editor and newspaper man, and later service in diplomatic circles—representing the United States at Panama—gave him not only a comprehensive knowledge of the world's affairs, but also furnished him a vast amount of details, which the ordinary man, unblest with such a good memory, would have soon forgotten.

He has the distinction of being the only soldier in the war of the rebellion who was voted a gold medal by congress for bravery upon the field of action. At the close of the war he outranked General Miles, and might have been at the head of the army, if he had not preferred to return to the plow, like the renowned Roman before him. It will be remembered that he accepted a lieutenant colonelcy in the Third Nebraska regiment, under Mr. Bryan; and later, upon Mr. Bryan's resignation at the close of hostilities with Spain, became chief in command of the regiment.

During the past year General Vifquain was ailing, confined most of the time in the house with some digestive trouble, but occasionally able to be out on the streets. Finally the end came and he passed quietly into the great beyond last Thursday. His funeral was conducted Sunday by the various military organizations, and was one of the largest ever seen in Lincoln.

General Vifquain was always an ardent democrat—one of the old school, and through and through anti-monopolist. Years ago he started the

Democrat in this city and his power as an editor is shown by the fact that when the question came up of whether the city should own the water works system, he espoused the cause of city ownership and won out in a republican stronghold against the bitter opposition of the republican daily. In 1902 he received a flattering complimentary vote for the fusion nomination for governor.

In recent years up to his confinement by illness at home, General Vifquain was a frequent visitor at The Independent editorial rooms; and the result of every visit and conversation with him was the inspiration of some editorial or article which tended to make The Independent a better and stronger paper. Not infrequently he contributed signed articles also; but he was never a man to rush into print upon slight pretext, simply to see his name in capital letters.

The pioneer, statesman, and soldier is dead; but his memory will long be enshrined in the hearts of those who knew him and loved him.

A NEW NAME

Andrew Rice, Neligh, Neb., an esteemed subscriber of The Independent, upon renewing his subscription the other day wrote us:

"Try the name National for the populist party. We must get up a new party if we ever accomplish anything that is worth having. Don't let us keep on barking up this old 'pop gum tree' for the 'possum left it three years ago."

The Independent is opposed to any change of party name or any radical departure from the principles enunciated at Omaha in 1892. There has been but one valid reason given thus far for a change of name. And that is this: Persons who have heretofore scoffed at populism and populists will not come to the people's party, even after conversion to populist principles, because of a feeling that they are doing an inconsistent act. Even this is much more theoretical than practical—because thousands of republicans and democrats switch across into the other party at times.

The words 'populist' and 'populism' were at first applied by the old party papers to the members and principles of the people's party, somewhat

Groceries.

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50 lbs. best granulated sugar...	\$1.00
6 lbs. choice prunes.....	.50
4 lbs. nectarine50
25 bars good laundry soap.....	1.00
2 lbs. high grade tea.....	1.00
5 lbs. gilt edge coffee.....	1.00
3 pkgs. Celluloid starch.....	.25
4 lbs. fancy bright apricots....	.50
4 lbs. fancy 4-Crown large raisins	.50
4 lbs. fancy Muer peaches.....	.50
12 lbs. fancy Japan head rice...	1.00
2 cans 16 oz. Cream of Tarter	
baking powder50
3 pkgs. 10-cent soda.....	.25
3 pkgs. 10-cent corn starch.....	.25
3 pkgs. 10-cent gloss starch....	.25
1 lb. pure black pepper.....	.25
1 bottle lemon extract.....	.10
1 bottle vanilla extract.....	.10
3 cans 10-cent Phoenix lye.....	.25
5 doz. clothes pins.....	.05
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derisively it is true, but nevertheless in response to a necessity for some convenient term to designate a member of the people's party and the economic reforms he advocated. These words have now become fixtures in the English language. People generally understand what they mean. A new party name will require a number of years before its nomenclature becomes settled—and this is always a disadvantage. The name "national" is not good, because a member of such party would say, "I am a nationalist," thus confusing him with the followers of Edward Bellamy. The word American is faulty, because to say, "I am an American," could be understood in a variety of ways.

"People's party" suits The Independent very well. It is a "populist" paper and preaches "populism" every week of the year. The man who is afraid to be called a "populist" isn't very strongly imbued with the idea that "populism" is right. The Independent knows a number of Nebraska populists who were republicans up to 1894 and 1896, and who were never excelled in the great variety of bitter flings they made against "pops" and "popism." They learned the error of their ways—and today there are no more faithful populists in Nebraska than they.

There is no crying need for a new party or a new name. What is wanted now is to secure a roster of all who are willing to stand up and be counted for populism. Afterward to make the people's party a dues-paying organization and put into practical operation within the party the principle of majority rule, dispensing entirely with conventions and other old party tactics—which will eventually do for any new party under any new name whatsoever, exactly what has been done for the people's party.

No, no, Mr. Rice; the 'possum is still up in the populist "gum tree." It is reform in "money, land, and transportation."

The Colorado Commoner is taking hold of the Old Guard enrollment in a businesslike manner, which will certainly bring in a large number of members from that state.

Join the Old Guard of Populism.