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**CHANCELLOR ANDREWS**

The Independent has long been an admirer of E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor of the University of Nebraska. Not only has it admired and honored him for his great ability as an educator and executive head of a great educational institution, but also for his undoubted fighting qualities and sterling manhood. That little bronze button on his lapel attests his loyalty and willingness to face death in support of his country. And his record in recent years—as head of Brown university, the schools of Chicago, and of the University of Nebraska—marks him as a man of pronounced convictions and an indomitable fighter.

But admiration for the man and educator does not preclude the Independent from opposing Chancellor Andrews, where his views and those of The Independent clash. And no matter how earnestly it may oppose him in anything, it still retains its former high regard for him as a man and successful educator and statesman.

On several occasions within a year or more, The Independent has felt that Chancellor Andrews was hardly consistent with his former record.

It could not applaud his Omaha Bar association speech, with its evident evasion of Marxian socialism and tearing to pieces of Redbertus—because the people of Nebraska ought to be enlightened to an understanding of Marxism. It was not quite satisfied with his explanation of his alleged "recantation" upon the silver question. And it has been unqualifiedly opposed to his efforts to secure "Temple Hall," as well as the undoubted influence he brought to bear upon the regents to secure the appointment of Dean Pound.

Today The Independent regrets that it must still oppose the chancellor's efforts to secure the Rockefeller donation, and, more than all, that his recent interview with the Omaha World-Herald shows unmistakable sympathy for the very ideas of government upon which The Independent based its opposition to Dean Pound. Both of these gentlemen are possessed of ability far above the average man, but The Independent has no love for the idea that the people are really unfit for self-government and need the protection and fostering care of great men. That the chancellor leans to this, is evident from the following:

"I am convinced," said the chancellor in that interview, "that conditions are already such as to demonstrate that the public school system cannot be altogether supported by taxation. While this is especially true of our state universities, it is also true of the graded schools and high schools in the large centers of population. The people cannot or will not contribute in taxes the large amount of money that is needed for the maintenance of their schools. I know this from my own experience in Chicago. Many children are crowded into basements and old storerooms, poorly lighted and ventilated, where conditions are unsanitary, and these places are called 'schools.' The trouble is that there is not money available to take care of these children as they should be cared for. The same thing, in many instances, is true of our high schools. The money and

supplies and apparatus are lacking because there is not money to supply them."

This is simply another turn of the indirect taxation kaleidoscope. Chancellor Andrews must give Nebraskans credit for little penetration if he thinks they cannot see far enough below the surface of things to know that no public school can be supported other than by taxation. It may be done by a direct contribution from each according to some legal form, or it may be done indirectly by making Rockefeller the tax-gatherer with power to say how much shall be expended for education and how much shall be used by himself in perfecting plans for greater tax-gathering. Or it may be done by a combination of the two—as in the Lincoln "Temple Hall" case.

"The university," he continued, "is already badly in need of money. A great many new buildings should be erected. The salaries of the members of the faculty are ridiculously low and should be increased, or, in the end, the faculty will fail to maintain its present high standard. A much larger income is needed than is now enjoyed. Yet you know and I know that, as a matter of fact, there is no hope of inducing the legislature to make us such appropriations as are required. What is the result? We must either secure the funds from private sources or the university must suffer."

This is a biased conclusion, but one to be expected. Naturally, the chancellor takes greater pride than most people in the university's continued growth. But to secure permanence of his growth The Independent would suggest that the university should not run too far ahead of the state itself. Nor must it be built up at the expense of the common schools or by the charity of legalized highwaymen. Better warm-hearted ignorance than cold-blooded intelligence. The people of Nebraska are still capable of self-government—which includes education—and they need no help from the robber barons of modern "benevolent feudalism." They will be happier without such help. Their school buildings may not be so splendid, but they will be free from blood stains at least.

Chancellor Andrews confesses that—"of course if it came to a donation of several millions from one person I might hesitate to advise that it be accepted. But if it comes from divers and scattered quarters I do not think there is any danger."

But this sounds painfully like the unwed mother's excuse for the illegitimacy of her child—that it was "such a little one." Nebraska cannot afford to give birth to even the tiniest bastard.

Chancellor Andrews' defense of Rockefeller does him credit for loyalty to an old-time friend—but it will not destroy the influence of Miss Tarbell's history. Miss Tarbell is writing in an dispassionate way, stating facts gleaned largely from official sources. The chancellor's view is colored by the glasses of friendship. On this head he said to the World-Herald:

"I know that Mr. Rockefeller is a cruelly misrepresented man. I don't think it will be contended that the newspapers, which so generally attack him, even pretend to be thorough in their investigations. Miss Tarbell's series of papers now running in McClure's Magazine are biased and unjust—there is more distortion and perversion in them than in any similar series I have ever read. The facts will be told from Mr. Rockefeller's standpoint, some time, and when they are, Miss Tarbell, I believe, will be sorry for what she has done. . . . I knew him when he was practically unknown outside of Cleveland. He is a man of tremendous brain force. I consider him far the greatest business man in the United States. Pierpont Morgan is a pigmy compared to him.

"When it is charged that Mr. Rockefeller's religious pretensions are insincere I deny it. I know him as an earnestly and devoutly religious man. Furthermore, I know him as a very charitable man. He has used me, a number of times, as an instrument in his charities. The amount that Mr. Rockefeller gives away quietly and secretly is much more than what he bestows publicly. He does not bid for notoriety or advertising in his good work; he also gives intelligently. He tries to place his money where it is really needed, and where it will do real good. I do not consider him at all a man worthy to be honored. . . . He

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has done the world much good. He has helped teach the lesson of combination and concentration. He has done much to direct the great industrial evolution toward the joining of forces. It is the inevitable outcome of modern tendencies and conditions. And why should he be attacked for this more than Andrew Carnegie, or John Wanamaker, for instance? What more has he done than they have done?"

We may grant much that Chancellor Andrews says regarding Rockefeller's brain force and what he has done toward teaching the lesson of combination and concentration; but, in view of the well-known methods employed by him to crush out competition, we may be pardoned for casting some doubts upon the sincerity of his religious professions. It is just as idle to say that Rockefeller was compelled by force of circumstances to become a billionaire, as it is to say that he became one simply by his own superior brain force.

The people in an era of prosperity became less vigilant than usual and permitted legislation to go unchallenged which laid the foundation which made Rockefeller a possibility. But these conditions required a great, unscrupulous, ambitious and grasping man to make them produce the results which now menace the peace of America.

One of the startling features of Chancellor Andrews' interview is the statement that his resignation as president of Brown university was "purely and solely for personal reasons" and that his free silver views had nothing whatever to do with bringing it about. Hence, as one of the martyrs for "academic freedom," Chancellor Andrews must be excluded from the list, as far as Brown university is concerned.

"I'll confess," said Chancellor Andrews, in conclusion, "that I can't understand the attitude of the World-Herald upon this question. I wish you would give my compliments to the editor of your paper, and tell him that the \$33,333.33 which Mr. Rockefeller asks the people of Nebraska to contribute will be raised; that the building will be erected; that it will be a great benefit to the students and to the university, and that it will do not the slightest harm to the students, the university, or the state of Nebraska."

It is probable that the money will be raised and the building built. Chancellor Andrews is too valiant a fighter to yield even under determined opposition. But the rest of his prophecy is a matter upon which earnest men may well differ. It may "do not the slightest harm" to prepare men for lackeys to the grand seigniors of the coming "benevolent

feudalism"—but a lot of old-fashioned people still admire the spirit manifested at the Boston Tea Party, and will resent the new system of taxation advocated by our worthy chancellor.

"Cut out the blight of populism," was a favorite expression of Billy Summers when he was hankering for the United States district attorneyship pruning-knife. But when he finally got it and tried it on the republican tree he found Dietrich "scale," and Colby aphid, and Currie black-heart and so many other diseases that his courage failed him. He did not use the knife, but gave the tree a spraying of lime water technicalities.

B. & M. Foss of Saline, being asked why he did not take the United States senatorship instead of allowing Dietrich to land it, said in effect: "It was the turn of a hand who should get it. But there were too many 'strings' to it and I turned it down." It is common talk that one of the "strings" was payment to Thompson for his senatorial campaign expenses and control of certain appointments. No wonder Dietrich had to make a red-tag sale of postoffices.

"Redeem Nebraska from the blight of populism," was the republican slogan in 1900. The "blight" was the best four years of state administration ever experienced in Nebraska. But the "redemption" came. Populism had "blighted" \$677,000 of the state debt. It had "blighted" the discount on state warrants and brought them to par and a premium. Three years of "redemption" have added \$535,000 to the state debt, making it even greater than in the palmy days of Joe Bartley. And if all signs do not fall there'll be a discount on state warrants before a year.

If Rockefeller, Carnegie, et al., really want to benefit humanity by gigantic donations, why not turn over a line of railroad from Atlantic to Pacific to Uncle Sam and let the people try equal ownership of something more productive than libraries and Temple Halls.

John L. Phillips, Ivanhoe, Okla.: "Enclosed find amount to carry my copy of the best 'educator' in the United States to August 4, 1904."

**HEADACHE**

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