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LIBERTY BUILDING.

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

PROF. WILL'S SOCIALISM

The Independent is an admirer of Prof. Thomas E. Will, president of the American socialist college, Wichita, Kas. It believes that Independent readers will derive much good from reading his article concerning "the robber who takes all that is left," which appears elsewhere in this issue.

Prof. Will has a happy way of expressing himself—a good-natured, "jollying" style, which is in great contrast with the acrid, acrimonious, venomous writings of many so-called "scientific" socialists, for example, those of the Da Leon school. Yet if there be anything really "scientific" about socialism, The Independent is inclined to believe that the De Leonites give by far the better presentation. Eliminating from S. L. P. writing the unnecessary harshness-which has really no place in scientific writing-and it is much more consistent than the happy-go-lucky "socialism" of Prof. Will.

The Independent takes it that Prof. Will-although he does not say as much-is a firm believer in the Marxian theory of "surplus value" and the Marxian interpretation of Ricardo's value theory in general. This inference is drawn from Prof. Will's state-

"Bourgeois public ownership would leave some of the robbers in full swing.

And who would comprise this "some?" Well he mentions "real estate men," thus making a nappy bid for single taxers' support. But he skilfully covers up the fact that he really includes in this "some," every employer of labor, every person who "exploits" another through the "surplus value" system of robbery. In other words, every man who hires another and pays him wages is an "exploiter," in reality—as Prot. Will means, but does not say directly-"the robber who takes all that is left," or, stated more nearly in accord with "scientific" formula: the original robber who takes all, but is compelled to divide the swag later on with the other robbers. For Prof. Will neatly covers up one of the fundamentals of socialism in his article, the fact that (if socialism be really "scientific") there can be no "exploitation" or robbery, except in the way of "surplus value." In other words, the laborer is the only "producer." If he is a wage-worker, his employer robs him of all but a living; but the robber in turn is compelled to divide up with other robbers.

Now, the farm-owning farmer-according to "scientific" socialism-not being a wage-worker, cannot be 'ex-ploited." But he may or may not himself be a robber, accordingly as he does or does not employ others to labor for him. If he does, he is "one of the robbers" who must be compelled to quit stealing.

It is to be noted that Prof. Will fails to agree with himself all the way through his article. "The producers," he says, "must conquer the powers of government. They must take over ALL the public utilities, ALL the necessities of life, and operate them ccllectively in the interest of the entire people. Nothing short of this can possibly do the work."

Now, that is a good statement of a really "scientific" socialism. Nothing railroad assessment a trifle in order ties of life" and their operation "col-

Che Debraska Independent Will, "will it be necessary that all private industrial activity shall be done away, that the 'government' shall run ALL the farms, ALL the shops," etc. "Not a bit of it," is his repiy. Why? Isn't a farm one of the "necessities?" And does it make any difference whether it is a little 80 or Lord Scully's third or half an entire county? It would from a populistic standpoint, but The Independent fails to see any difference from the viewpoint of social'sm.

In order to allay the fears of the 'little farmers," Prof. Will assures them that "we are not proposing to confiscate one of your farms." That may be correct; but if it is not done, then socialism is, after all, nothing but "bourgeois public ownership," or state capitalism. If there is no difference in classes of business, such as between a railroad and a bakery, a bank and a farm, except in magnitude of the business transactions, then any scheme which takes in Scully's land and operates it "collectively in the interests of all the people," but allows John Doe to keep and operate his 80, is only a half-way measure that lacks much of being denominated "scientific." It may be Prof. Will's socialism-but it is a depial of the fundamentals upon which he professes to base his science.

'Bourgeois public ownership" is the sneering term Prof. Will applies to populist demands. The same thing, if called "socialism" and advocated by him and his following is much more desirable. Surely Shakespeare was mistaken. There is something in a name. Populist "skunk cabbage," under his skillful manipulation, becomes a socialist "rose!"

Populists affirm-and socialists deny -that there is a well-defined practical line of division between those industries which must be owned and operated by the public and those in which individual initiative is more desirable. The populist position on "value," money, and kindred subjects is in harmony with this view. The socialist 'surplus value," "crystallized labor," wage-worker "exploitation" theory is inconsistent with any such division. All industries are alike, if they are carried on by wage labor; and the ones in which wage laber is not employed are "too little to count."

As The Independent has said before, the socialist program has an attraction for the propertyless wage-worker, but it presents nothing for the farm-owning farmer or other business man who operates in a small way. Such men seek protection from the robberies of the railroads and banks and other institutions receiving special privileges directly from the government or indirectly are thus favored. Prof. Will's effort to gather together propertyless wageworkers and "middle class" property owning business men cannot succeed. If he abandons his "proletarian" program, he abandons socialism, no matter how persistently he keeps the name. Populism is sufficiently advanced ground for the "bourgeois" element Prof. Will is trying to gather under the wing of socialism.

Dr. Reemelir inquires, "What hotel will you stop at in St. Louis?" The Parker committee is called to gather at the New St. James, and the Butler committee will doubtless meet there, too. At any rate, the New St. James will be a convenient place for all to gather. Once there exact information can be learned.

BEN BLUNT

The Independent acknowledges rcceipt of Speed Mosby's book, "Ben Blunt," regarding which Mr. Bartley made inquiry some weeks ago. It is reserved for review later.

The opening chapters give promise of a political novel of great meritperhaps, too great for the scheming politicians who are so faithfully pictured therein. As a general rule the political novel especially if written "with a purpose," is rather poor stuff, but Mr. Mosby's sole purpose—as far as we have read-seems to be nothing more than to picture actual conditions and let the reader draw his cwn conclusions as to how the evil may be

eradicated. Evidently Mr. Mosby has spent some time in the state's service. His description of life at the state house is too realistic to be the mere dream of a novelist. His chapter on "The Auditor," the meeting of the board of equalization, the auditor's heavy mail and how he disposed of it after dictating an acknowledgment of a Wabash pass for "myself and 26 friends" to Buffalo, the shrewd railroad tax agent's plan for raising the short of taking over "ail the necessi- to keep down public clamor and how it was heralded as a great victory for has done his full "juty" by his conlectively in the interest of all the peo- "the people"-these are so life-like stituents-insofar as his party would

Groceries.

Special February Combination

We Pay the Freight.

We will deliver the following \$10.00 combination to any towns in the State of Nebraska, freight prepaid by us, any time during the month of February, 1904. Reference:—First National Bank or The Independent.

50 lbs. best granulated sugar	\$1.00
6 lbs. choice prunes	.50
4 lbs. nectarine	.50
25 bars good laundry soap	1.00
2 lbs. high grade tea	1.00
5 lbs. gilt edge coffee	1.00
2 place College Conee	
3 pkgs. Celluloid starch	.25
4 lbs. fancy bright apricots	.50
4 lbs. fancy 4-Crown large raisins	.50
4 lbs. fancy Mucr peaches	.50
12 lbs. fancy Japan head rice	1.00
2 cans 16 oz. Cream of Tarter	
baking powder	.50
3 pkgs. 10-cent soda	.25
3 pkgs. 10-cent corn starch	.25
3 pkgs. 10-cent gloss starch	10000000
1 lb nume black scarch	.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
3 bars 10c Rising Sun stove polish	.25
A11 Abo - t	STITE SE

Orders for customers outside of the state of Nebraska and on line of railroad entering Lincoln add 75 cents to pay part of freight.

All the above for.....\$10.00

Branch & Miller Co.

Box 2962, Cor. 10th & P St., Lincoln, Neb. What we advertise we do

Mosby had spent some time in Lincoln our garden seeds? What more could gathering material for his story.

But, there—this is not a review; merely an acknowledgement. "Ben Blunt" is from the press of the Commercial Printing Co., St. Louis; 382 pages, bound in cloth. No intimation of the price is given, but it is probably \$1.50. Write to Speed Mosby, Jefferson City, Mo., for price, and get a copy if you are interested in learning inside secrets of the average state house, for it is apparent that Mr. Mosby has drawn his pictures from

******** Particular attention is called to the page advertisement of Hayden Bros. in this issue. The Hayden Bros. store is by far the largest in the state and The Independent desires that readers as far as possible send their mail order to that store. The goods will be found entirely satisfactory and the prices much lower than elsewhere. Please mention The Independent when you write.

HIS FULL "JUTY"

According to the socialist doctrine of "economic determinism," a republican congressman from Nebraska must be as smooth as a snake doctor to keep his constituents from rebelling. He must ostensibly "represent" an agricultural constituency, but must in reality work for the interests of the "dominant" class-which just now happens to be the plutocratic-manufacturing-banking-trust-railroad ele-

There isn't anything that the Honorable Elmer J. Burkett, of the First Nebraska district, can do for his constituents, except to grab for a few of the towns a new postoffice building and along towards spring send out a few packages of back-number garden seeds. When he votes on any really vital public question he must stand with the crowd who dominate Ameri-

can politics. I am just in receipt of the following interesting communication, which it gives me pleasure to print, inasmuch as it shows that notwithstanding I am one of the mossiest of mossbacked "pops," yet nevertheless the Honorable Elmer J. is not too busy to look after my economic welfare. Of course, he had no way of knowing that I buy all my garden seeds from the Griswold Seed Co .- because I want something that will grow-and, therefore, I am just as much obliged by him for the favor as though the five varieties of vegetable seeds he sends were really fit to plant. In his forthcoming campaign to become the proud possessor of Senator Dictrich's "toga" (which includes the postoffice franchise), I desire to add my word of testimony that the Honorable Elmer J.

we ask?

"House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., Feb. 9, 1304.-My Dear Sir: I take pleasure in informing you that I have this day requested the department of agriculture to send you a package of vegetable seeds (five varieties), which I trust will reach you in due time.

"If I can serve you further at any time it will afford me pleasure to do so. Very truly yours,

"E. J. BURKETT."

********** **New York Notes**

New York, Feb. 8, 1904.—(Editorial Correspondence.)—The New Times, after holding my article concerning populism over a week, did at last publish 't The article appeared on the 24th page in a very inconspicuous place, not at all in that part of the paper where such replies to its editorial course usually apear. However I am duly thankful. I waited over a week before I sent it to The Independent. The Post has paid no attention to it. All the prominent men that I have met here, who do not worship at the throne of Mammon, make the complaint that they are voiceless-nc paper or magazine in the east will publish anything that attacks the rule of plutocracy at the root. How Mc-Clure's Magazine came to print the Tarbell and Stevens articles criticising the Standard Oil trust and boss rule and corruption in the cities is too long to tell here. The prospect is that the magazine will be shut out of distribution by the great news company that has a trust in the distribution of all literature that goes on the news stands all over the country.

Among the papers that are denouncing Bryan in the most severe terms are the following published in the south: Wilmington Star, N. C.; Knoxville Sentinel, . Tenn.; Nortolk Landmark, Va.; Vicksburg Heraid, Miss.; Charleston Post, S. C.; Nashville Banner, Tenn.; Birmingham Banner, Ala. They are saying meaner things about him than were ever said in the gold standard papers in the east. There are many more than those enumerated of the same sort. That goes to show that the estimate placed upon the democratic party in the south by the populists who live there has been entirely correct. Organize the Old Guard.

One of the most distinguished writera in the United States said to me last night at a dinner party: "New York is in the depths of poverty, Thousands of people who have been well-to-do are absolutely hungry. They still live in fine apartments and are well dressed, but that cannot last long, ple will do the work." But, says Prof. one could almost imagine that Mr. permit him to do so, Haven't we had At a club last night I was playing