

## The Nebraska Independent

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

Every democratic judge on the supreme bench was for Jim Hill and the merger.

Ex-Congressman R. D. Sutherland made a call at The Independent this week. He is just as enthusiastic a populist as he ever was. He says there will be a full delegation to the national convention at Springfield from his district.

The democracy of Texas has brought plutocracy to such a state of power that it costs a man \$1.75 to cast a ballot down there. The trusts can put up the money for as many reliable voters as they need and the rest are disfranchised.

Bishop Bonacum has sued Father Murphy eleven times and been beaten every time. The last of the cases was tried in the supreme court last week when the bishop got knocked out again. No announcement was made as to when the bishop would begin another suit.

The papers have had a good deal to say about the Russian general, Kuropatkin, who is to take charge of the forces fighting Japan. Arthur Forbes described him some years ago as "a silent, dogged, bloodthirsty fellow with bull dog instincts of savagery and tenacity."

There is a strike on in New York city involving 200,000 workmen. If each of these workmen represents a family of five, then 1,000,000 people will be without an income while it lasts. It will not take much of that sort of thing to bring on that "disorder" that those Wall street chaps so much fear.

The death penalty has been abolished in France. President Loubet has announced his intention to follow the precedent established by his predecessor, President Grevy, and will commute the sentence of every person condemned to death to imprisonment for life. In five states of the Union no death sentences are permitted. It does not appear that the crime of murder has increased in any of them.

Mike Duffy, one of New York's boodle aldermen of 1883-4, was the first man to use the word "combine" in a public address and the reporters got a lot of fun out of it. Now we find it in a supreme court decision and must take it for granted that it has been safely ensconced in the English language. One year a word is slang and considered disreputable; the next we find it used by the learned, and after that it goes about in a silk hat and evening dress and is admitted to the "best society." All of which makes the "purists" very sad.

### MILLIONS DISFRANCHISED

The organization of the people's party in every state of the Union is a matter of vital interest, not alone to the members of that party itself, but to every citizen of this republic. If one studies the events of the last few years with the sincere desire to arrive at the truth, he cannot help coming to the conclusion that every effort possible has been made to arrange the laws and produce conditions which will make it next to impossible for a third party to come into the field. The Australian ballot law, which had for its object not only the absolute secrecy of the ballot, but granting the opportunity to every class of citizens to appear on that ballot under whatever name they chose to adopt, has been used to destroy the very object had in view by those who secured its adoption. In many states it now costs immense sums of money and months of work for a new party to get on the ballot. In New York it will cost a new party at least \$20,000, for the law requires 6,000 petitioners, of which there shall be at least 75 from each county, and each name must be attested by a notary public. In California it requires the signatures of at least 3 per cent of the voters. In Texas a man cannot vote unless he has paid into the state treasury before or upon a certain day \$1.75. Thus it will be seen that there has been a persistent effort all over the United States to confine the political parties to two. If the candidates of these two parties can be secured, the veto power and other powers of the president makes any legislation against the trusts, the money power and plutocracy generally impossible.

It is by these methods that the people's party has been almost crushed out of existence. The slogan of the enemy has been: Put the people's party out of existence. Drive its membership either into the democratic or the republican party. With only two parties in the field, vested rights and stock brokers' money will be safe. That attack has been successful in Kansas and Colorado. In Nebraska we fought for the existence of the people's party and saved it. In many of the other states the work must begin at the bottom. It is progressing rapidly by the organization of the Old Guard and the Vanguard of Populism. We will have a national ticket in the field in every state and territory of the Union in the coming campaign. Then plutocracy may capture the leadership of both the old parties and still it will find that it has a foe to fight.

If honest democrats and earnest populists had not seen the danger and resolved to die in the last ditch before the thing should be done, Nebraska would now be in the same condition as Kansas and populists would have to go on the ticket simply as petitioners to be allowed to vote without the name of their party appearing. Think of the infamy of charging a man \$1.75 to vote! True statesmanship would more likely provide that he should be fined \$1.75 if he didn't vote. There are 160,000 voters in Texas who have been disfranchised by that act. It is far more dangerous than the "grandfather" clause in the constitutions of the southern states.

Thousands of letters have come to the office of The Independent saying: "I have not voted for the last three or four years. There was no ticket in the field that I could conscientiously support, so I did not vote at all." None of these writers seem to understand that they have been disfranchised by the manipulation of the old party leaders in securing laws that disfranchised them. There would have been a ticket in the field everywhere if the Australian ballot law had not been prevented to accomplish just what it was enacted to prevent. America has today its millions of disfranchised citizens.

These citizens are absolutely and

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\$2.50 = \$3 = \$4 = \$5

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completely disfranchised. If a man goes to the polls and finds that he cannot conscientiously vote any of the ballots that are provided by the authorities, he is disfranchised. He is not allowed to write out a ballot and place it in the box. He must take the one given to him by the election officer or not vote at all. Tens of thousands have not voted under these conditions who would have voted if they could have got their party name and candidates upon the ticket. The men who have secured the enactment of such laws belong to the sappers and miners of liberty, against whom Lincoln warned the people.

### ORGANIZE

Attention is called to the letter of the acting chairman of the people's party printed in this issue of The Independent. The work that has already been done in the enrollment of the Old Guard and Vanguard shows that there are many thousands of live, active and earnest populists, and that they are in every state and territory of the Union. But an organization must be perfected or this latent power cannot be brought into action. There must be county conventions and state conventions. Where in any county two or three populists are gathered together, not only will the Lord be with them, but they have authority to go ahead, call a county convention, elect delegates to a state convention and prepare the way for a national convention and a hot campaign. Of course in those counties where there is an organization that organization must be respected. To get at the millions of populists all over the United States and get concerted action, requires a great deal of work and some money. Let everybody help.

### SETTING UP THE PINS

A staff correspondent of the Brooklyn Eagle has been traveling over this state helping to set up the pins for the reorganizers. If he lies as fully and completely about everything else as he does in his letter of March 17 about the populists, he will earn his money. He says: "The avowed following of the New York editor (Hearst) is limited to a few populist leaders of the interior." The Independent would like to see the names of those "populist leaders" who are

for Hearst. With a large correspondence in every county in the state and more than 10,000 subscribers covering it from one end to the other, The Independent has never heard of a populist leader or any other kind of a populist in Nebraska who is a supporter of Hearst.

The democrats of Nebraska are just learning that what the editor of The Independent told them a year ago is true. He then had information that led him to believe that a desperate effort would be made by the reorganizers to get the Nebraska delegation and that money was even then being sent into the state to accomplish that purpose. The Lee Herdman crowd are hot after Bryan's scalp and they have plenty of the "sinews of war."

### WHAT A TRUST BUSTER!

Teddy got an injunction against the meat trust, and the trust went on its way rejoicing, charging higher prices than ever before. Now he has secured a decision against Morgan's and Hill's railroad merger and the roads continue to charge all the traffic will bear. That is the way the trusts are fought by a republican administration. There is a statute that provides that "every person" who commits acts such as Morgan and Hill and the managers of the meat and coal trusts have committed "shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, said punishments at the discretion of the court."

One criminal case under that law would destroy the meat trust, railroad mergers and coal trust and the rest of the commercial pirates at one stroke. But no such case will be brought. As a "trust buster," Teddy is a fake.

The Russians have lost two of their torpedo boats and several hundred men by running into their own mines. A good many quips have been aimed at the Russian naval officers in the American press on that account. But one of our battleships rammed another in the open sea. The Illinois was so damaged that it will take months to repair her. The only way that she got home was to build a cement and brick wall to fill up the great hole that was knocked in her.