

The Nebraska Independent

Lincoln, Nebraska.

LIBERTY BUILDING. 1328 O STREET

Entered according to Act of Congress of March 3, 1879, at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.
FIFTEENTH YEAR.

\$1.00 PER YEAR

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About all the Japanese that the Russians have so far been able to kill are prisoners they have captured. Whenever they capture a Jap, they court-martial and either shoot or hang him.

Seven of the Kansas delegates to Springfield are enrolled members of the Old Guard of Populism. They are Messrs. Breidenthal, Allen of Douglas, Johnson of Ottawa, Truman of Dickinson, Wright of Smith, Hewitt of Stafford, and Ruppenthal of Russell.

Louisiana held a state election last week. The dispatches say that the democrats elected, not only all the state officers, but that the legislature is also solid democratic. It is added that no negro votes were cast. Any man is at liberty to make any remark that he pleases concerning that situation.

The supreme court of Colorado is composed of as big a set of cowards as the district court. It held court last week while 32 armed soldiers stood at the entrance. Let everybody keep away from that God-forsaken country where scenes are enacted not known in any civilized land since the granting of the Magna Charta.

Wm. Heywood Buckley, R. F. D. 1, Berkeley, Cal., says: "I defy any man living to name, not a score or two, but ONE economic social ail which the abolition of interest would not cure. For the one who succeeds, I will pay a year's subscription to The Independent. Either answer through The Independent or direct to the writer."

The thinking man cannot help arriving at the conclusion that "complete socialization" as taught by the socialists would result in the loss of all individuality and end in degeneracy and decay. It would put humanity into an organization of dependent parts having only co-operative functions. Each man, woman and child would be a cog in a wheel and nothing more.

Mr. J. D. Tucker of White Plume Farm, Valparaiso, Ind., says: The Independent is keyed to high G in the songs of years ago. We have been starving for some time for the old Manna. It reminds us of the Chicago Sentinel and Nonconformist. Though 77 years old and with an invalid wife, I feel as full of fight as in the days of the old school house campaigns. If our state and national convention gives us a greenback platform and the Declaration of Independence to stand on, I will take up the fight here in our locality and say: "Damned be the man who first cries hold! enough!"

SOCIALIZATION OF HUMANITY

The recent drastic criticism of the postulates upon which Marxian socialism rests has driven the followers of that cult to the necessity of forming new theories so widely different from those heretofore defended that the result is a practical abandonment of the Marxian philosophy. "Economic determinism" has been attacked from so many sides and so fiercely that new positions are being taken. The latest is a work by Charles Kendall Franklin (Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago), entitled "The Socialization of Humanity." Economic determinism as laid down by Marx and Loria comes so near to fatalism, so completely eliminates the power of mind in shaping events and the spiritual side of humanity is so completely set aside, that as soon as it is understood, thinking men utterly repudiate it.

That man is incurably religious seems to be acknowledged by this author and to provide for that, he attempts to construct a religion to suit the circumstances, the major portion of the book being devoted to that purpose. As he found that he could not have a religion without a god of some sort, he manufactures one to suit his purpose, this god is "socialized humanity." He says: "In Oriented persons, the influence of one's social nature upon one's individual nature, is referred to as the influence of God upon the individual. Allegorically this is true, but instead of some imaginary God, it is to the real facts in human life that we owe all of our morality, owe our social nature, our spirituality and our intellectuality. The good, the true, the great, the sublime—everything grew up in humanity."

The word "social" is always used in the Marxian sense in the work. "Social sense," "social state," "social morality," etc., are only words to designate his new god.

In trying to build up this new socialist religion, the author runs against the same mysteries that confront all those who venture into the region of the unknown.

He says: "The unity of nature secured by the hypothesis of God only adumbrates the perfection of the unity of nature which the facts some day will establish; for, despite all our reasoning from the hypothesis of God, man has never been able to explain how an omnipotent God could let the devil live, or how it was that a perfectly pure and holy God could be the author of anything, and yet not the author of evil."

Neither can Mr. Franklin explain anything about it. He says, but that does not explain anything, that "none of these inevitable contradictions will be found in the naturalistic explanation of things, "monism." Everything in the universe will be perfectly organized. The interdependence of the inorganic, the organic, and society will be given; and the individual, instead of referring things to the mystery of God, will trace them to their natural causes." That leaves the mystery greater than ever. If things are "perfectly organized" there must be an organizer. "Natural cause" must be the primary and original thing and somebody will want to know what that "thing" is.

The truth is, that this does not satisfy the intellect half as well as Mrs. Eddy's explanation. She says there is no devil and no evil. All such ideas are mortal error, or even the explanation of Jonathan Edwards, who looked upon God as a sovereign endowed with passions like man and punished with pain and rewarded with joy as it pleased himself.

In the latter half of the volume, Mr. Franklin gets back to the old Marxian doctrines pure and simple. After having made a god of socialized humanity, he repeatedly declares there is no God at all. Hear him: "The primitive concept of things, that they are created and maintained by a

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god, is totally erroneous." Of scientists he says: "None accept the God-hypothesis and reason from it; for that would upset all science." Many of his other assertions are of the broad socialistic character. "The scholars of the world from time immemorial, the scientists, artists, literary men, business men and statesmen of the world have held the God and immortality hypothesis only as a matter of policy." All that is pure Marxian socialism.

The Independent must insist that this effort to make a socialist god and create a socialist religion, notwithstanding the learning exhibited, is a dismal failure. Every man who attempts to evolve a religion from Darwinism must meet with just such a failure as those who have attempted to build scientific theories upon the Bible. Mind determines the destinies of men to a much greater degree than does economic determinism and man is incurably religious. Let philosophies be built upon these truths.

WHERE'S THAT SILVER?

Mr. Hill, in introducing his monetary bill in the house, said that "on the 1st of July, 1904, the treasury bullion will be exhausted." Will Mr. Hill please make another statement on the floor of the house and tell what become of those cords of pig silver in the treasury that used to be shown to every visitor who came to Washington who could be induced to look at them and over which the republican spell-binders, senators and representatives were wont to rave? What became of that silver? There were tons and tons of it. Is it possible that the republicans have coined it all into money after the shouting and raving that they did for years? Did they coin it or not? Did they sell it? Did some of them steal it? What became of those tons of silver which republicans told us to coin and put in circulation was repudiation?

THE ARENA

The Arena was the first magazine to take up and dispassionately discuss the economic propositions presented to the world in the Omaha platform. It has had a checkered career. It has often changed proprietors and editors, but it has continued to exist. A new arrangement

has now been made and Mr. B. O. Flower, the original editor, has been placed in full editorial control again. The table of contents in the April number shows that it is again taking up the discussion of those fundamental principles upon which depends the happiness and prosperity of the great common people "of whom God made so many." Such titles as "Capital Crimes Against Free Government," "National Sovereignty Not Absolute," "Plea for Academic Freedom," and "Prof. Parsons' Story of New Zealand" show that this magazine will become a necessity to men and women who think. It is published by Albert Brandt, 5 Park Square, Boston, Mass., \$3 a year, 25 cents a number.

AN ASTOUNDING DISCOVERY

The State Journal and its evening edition, The News, deserve the plaudits of Nebraska for making public one of the most astounding discoveries of the age.

These journalistic "Old Sleuths" have actually found out and published the most astonishing fact that the Burlington railroad system in Nebraska is, for taxation purposes, divided up into some fifteen to seventeen different parts, each retaining its original name; and that the net result of such practice is to make the Burlington's taxes much lighter than they would probably be if the road were taxed as a unit.

Readers of The Independent will probably experience a touch of "that tired feeling," to be told this old, old story; but they should be patient. The Journal and News have a clientele of "mullet head" readers who could not be hired to read The Independent or any other reform paper. And now, after many years of silence, it is a subject for congratulation that the Journal and News will allow their readers this medium of information, even if it is a bit stale to persons who keep in touch with matters of state government.

To write a platform that would be generally accepted by the democratic party is a manifest impossibility. It can't be done. The party is divided into two camps holding irreconcilable principles. No platform can be written that will suit them both.