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Lincoln, Nebraska.

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Did America make much of an advance when she dethroned the king and crowned the political boss?

The republicans of Iowa held their convention and the "Iowa idea" went glimmering into the vague hereafter.

There never was a better aphorism than that contained in a sentence in Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow's sermon last week, when he said: "Our real enemy is not the greed of the few, but the ignorance of the many." In other words, the mullet heads.

The leaders of both old parties are urging short platforms. The Independent suggests the following: Democratic, "Sane and sound." Republican, "Stand pat." What's the use of printing a lot of platitudes. The thing is to proclaim something to get in on, and as soon as in, get off.

The Lincoln News says: "Now it is almost a political axiom in Nebraska that whenever the editor of the Bee assails a man, there is something good politically in store for that man." The Independent don't believe that the Star can get Tom Majors and several other men in Nebraska to agree to that.

The Independent has been criticised for calling the two state administrations preceding this, populist instead of fusion. There may be some ground for the objection, but all the state officers were populists except one, Attorney General Smyth, and he was the best populist of the whole lot, although he called himself a democrat.

The question is not whether the "board of equalization" will "consent" to raise the assessment of the railroads. Will the roads, after taking all things into consideration, conclude that it is to their interest to "consent" to a raise? The Bee, the Journal and the News do not fire their shots at the right parties. Let them get the "consent" of the railroads.

A small advertisement is appearing in many papers of a religious book. At the side is a figure of a cross with a \$ mark. The cartoonists have often clothed the plutocratic spell-binder with dollar marks, but this is the first time the cross was ever printed with the dollar mark. Is it the cross or the dollar mark that best illustrates current religion?

The News, the Journal, the Star, and the Bee, are all wailing the railroads that if the republican party is beaten in this state, the roads will get taxed to the limit of the law, and the only wise course for the railroad managers to pursue is to do something to keep that party in power, which is to publicly acknowledge that the republican party is now, and always has been, the railroad party. Next fall they will all deny that.

The commissioners of education in Kansas have ordered that that part of the school history which relates how Funston swam a river in front of the enemy shall be expunged. They say that it was two privates who performed that feat and not Funston. But Funston got a brigadier generalship in the regular army as a reward for a feat that some one else performed. That sort of thing has been common in the history of imperialism.

**WALL STREET BRAGGARTS.**

The fortunes and great accumulations of money in this country depend entirely on the labor of the farmers. Without their products to ship abroad the country would soon be without gold and bankruptcy would stare every banker and promoter in the face. It is the farmers who supply the vital force that keeps the mill's running, the mines open, the railroad cars full of freight. The value of exported farm products during 1893 was \$878,479,331. Take that much from our export trade and ships would have to be laden with gold every week to Europe or imports cease. Much bragging is done by the plutocrats of the east concerning the increase in foreign trade, but they never mention the fact that it is the farmer, and principally the western and southern farmer, who furnishes the material for that trade. They intimate that it is the great men of the east, the "captains of industry," who make our foreign trade. They strut around as if they were lords of creation. They control the government. The army and navy is at their call. If some poor foreigner fails to pay for the goods ordered the practice is established of sending a warship to collect the debt.

But these braggarts are not the men who create our foreign trade at all. It is the men out on the plains of the west and on the plantations of the south who plant the corn, wheat and cotton who make our foreign trade, and if they should fail in their business for two years the whole world would be swept with famine.

Yet these men who make prosperity possible, who create the wealth, who make the foreign trade, furnish the power that turns the wheels in the manufactories, that sends the great ships across the seas with their produce—these men let the braggarts of Wall street brag on, run the government, control transportation and treat them as if they were serfs and slaves. What does Wall street care for a farmer? It looks upon the farmer as part of the soil which the street is to farm for what can be got out of him.

And the farmer votes for Wall street! He ascribes unto the denizen there all glory and power. The importer and exporter are the great gods he worships and reads about every day in his paper. He is going to vote for a ship subsidy to still further exalt him. That is, some of the farmers. A good many of them began to see things in the true light ten or twelve years ago. More of them are getting the scalps knocked off their optics lately. They are forming companies to build elevators. Some of them are even so audacious as to buy seats on the boards of trade and sell their own corn, wheat and cotton. Wall street had better keep an eye on the farmer. He is showing symptoms of a desire to have some of the glory, the honor, the power and the money, himself. The farmers are going to Springfield on the Fourth of July. Wall street "better watch out."

The proportion of divorces to marriages in 1902 in eight states reporting statistics is as follows: Maine, 1 to 6.0; New Hampshire, 1 to 8.3; Vermont, 1 to 10.0; Massachusetts, 1 to 16.0; Rhode Island, 1 to 8.0; Ohio, 1 to 8.8; Indiana, 1 to 7.6; Michigan, 1 to 11.00. Those statistics are the proof of the degeneracy concerning which The Independent has been warning its readers for the last four or five years.

**THE UNEXPECTED.**

No one can tell what will happen in politics. Here is Jo Parker and a lot more of the mid-roadsers writing strenuous letters to Vice Chairman Edmisten, De France and others demanding that the populist national convention shall be postponed until after the democratic national convention, so if things turn out to suit them there, the populists can endorse the democratic nominee, a thing that these mid-roadsers have been denouncing with all the fierce adjectives to be found in the dictionaries for the last seven years.

Then again there is the condition among the democrats many prominent men of that party in New York openly declaring that if a reorganizer like Parker is nominated they will bolt. Who would have ever dreamed of such a thing happening down there in "the enemy's country?"

The Cleveland boom seemed to be dropped suddenly many weeks ago and Parker taken up. Now it is declared in many high places that the Parker candidacy, the Olney boom and the rest of the maneuvering has been solely for the purpose of at last nominating Cleveland. They now begin to say, and they have good grounds for the assertion, that Cleveland is the only man the democrats can elect. Cleveland can carry New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and all the southern states. The row among republicans in Illinois and Wisconsin

**Nebraska Clothing Co**

**Men's Suits for \$9.00**

**We Will Fill Your Order By Mail  
This Offer Is For 10 Days Only.**

The backward spring season is responsible for this most unusual assortment of high grade suits at \$9.00. It requires no argument other than the decided merits of the goods themselves and their very low price to effect a sale and make a permanent customer of every purchaser.

The very best value of the season in now before you. Send for samples—at only.... **\$9.00**

**Men's High Grade Suits \$11.00**

About 100 suits in all, that we expect to fill mail orders on. They are worth all the way up to \$16.00. Made of fine chevots, worsteds, fancy mixtures and homespun—all sizes. We bought them at a great price concession, of which we give you the advantage.

Here's another thing about these suits we want you to consider—They are all hand made. That's why they will hold their shape and look so different from the ordinary factory made clothing—suits, worth up to \$16.00. Send for samples,—at..... **\$11.00**

will make them democratic states and Indiana can be bought, giving Cleveland a good majority in the electoral college. It would not matter how big the majorities might be in the other states for Roosevelt, for that would not affect the issue. So they are all hurrahing for Cleveland—not openly and above board, for that might defeat their plans, but on the quiet, when a few of the faithful who always vote 'er straight get together. Then they dream dreams about being postmasters, United States marshals, revenue collectors, and all sort of things.

As for The Independent, it possesses its soul in peace. There will be a people's party national convention at Springfield on the Fourth of July, a platform promulgated, candidates nominated and the people's party will poll twice as many votes as it ever did before. It will carry several states, elect some congressmen, perhaps a United States senator or two, and go on its way rejoicing, confident that in the near future populist principles will be triumphant, the people will own the railroads, telegraphs, telephones and all those things requiring government powers for their operation. Robber tariffs will be repealed, the trusts will be destroyed, there will be postal savings banks, but one kind of money and that issued by the government and not by the banks. On to Springfield. There will be a "rip-roaring" time there and you will want to take part in it.

The only men who are doing business these days are the farmers. They are putting in their crops, buying lots of machinery and paying for it, while down east, that country that skinned us alive in '93 and '94 and '95, they are selling but little goods and the wage-workers who voted on the full dinner pail cry are being discharged by the tens of thousands. A long time ago The Independent warned the dwellers in "the enemy's country" that they would "get it in the neck" some day themselves.

**HOLLER THAN THOU.**

Whenever a man appeared in the populist party who constantly declared that he was holler than all the rest and the only sinner pure reformer in the lot, he invariably turned out a traitor to the party and was soon found denouncing it. Among that sort of men at large was Powderly and in this state John G. Sprecher. Sprecher, in his Free Lance, is denouncing the populist party more fiercely than it was ever denounced in any straightout republican paper. In fact, his charges are greater falshoods than were ever uttered by the republican in this state. In a long article, copied in the Bee, and which will be used as campaign thunder by the republicans, Sprecher says:

"The state sadly needed a new revenue measure, because the debt

was getting not only away beyond the constitutional limit, but was increasing rapidly year by year, yet these 'reformers' failed when it came to act and today all they have on that line is to attack the law the republicans passed when they returned to power."

No republican ever had the cheek to declare that the state debt "was increasing rapidly year by year," it took Sprecher to do that. Most of the republicans know that the books show that the fusion government reduced the state debt in four years \$677,063.16, and it took a "holler than thou" saint to make such a bare-faced and utterly false charge. If the republicans had not so enormously increased the appropriations there would have been no necessity for a new revenue law and increase in taxation. If the paying off of the debt without increase of taxation at the rate the fusion government did for four years had been continued, there would soon have been no debt, taxation could have been decreased and there would have been no demand for a new revenue law.

**THE FRENCH AND THE POPE.**

There has been a great deal said in the papers during the week about a rupture between the French republic and the pope. The French minister has been withdrawn from the vatican, that much is certain. As near as one in America can tell, the row is about the support of the bishops and priests in France. The French government pays about \$8,000,000 a year to these ecclesiastics, but has the right to name the bishops. It appears that the new pope is of the opinion that this government support should be abolished and the church maintained as it is in the United States by contributions as it destroys his control over the bishops. Strange as it may appear, the socialists, who believe in no religion at all, are in favor of the government continuing to support the Catholic clergy. They think that if the clergy draw their pay from the government, the priests will be far less dangerous than if left to the support of contributions by the people. The bishops and priests are not at all affected by the recent legislation against the monastic orders. That is what all this talk about the repudiation of the "concordat" means.

Should dead men rule the world and put heavy burdens on the living? It is well known that Jay Gould provided in his will that if any of his daughters married without the consent of their brothers that the daughters should forfeit their portion of the inheritance. That a man of millions can control the heart affairs of others long after his death, seems contrary to nature, but an English court has decided that he can, and the courts of this country always follow English precedents.