

in sufficient numbers to render the bolt of the republicans ineffective. Besides these lollers, there were thousands of other dissatisfied republicans held in line by the domination of the corporations threatening their means of living, that can not be so held again.

Will there be a new alignment of parties? Most surely.

A Proletariat Senate

In the poor, poverty stricken Nebraska senate, where every man is a republican, there is not one able to pay his way on the railroads. Every one of them has to accept of railroad alms to get back and forth from the capital to his home. Who ever thought when we first made our way over these plains with ox teams, paying our own way, that the time would come fifty years afterward, when we should have a proletariat senate to make laws for us, no one of whom could pay his own way? What joy would the thought of that have given to Carl Marx!

It is not hardly fair to "the widows and orphans" for the members of the Nebraska legislature to beg all the cost of their travel from the railroads. It would have "evened up" things more if they had passed the hat around among the people generally and got enough to pay their transportation expenses, than to have put all the burden on the "widows and orphans" who own the railroad stocks and bonds. In behalf of the "widows and orphans," The Independent suggests that the members of the legislature return their passes and take up a collection. The Independent will chip in ten cents a piece for them.



An Open Accusation

The Lincoln Star, in speaking of the Nebraska legislature, says:

Members of the house are exceedingly indignant over the attempt that has thus been made to "throw dirt" at them. They say they don't mind a fair, open assertion or accusation, but that veiled slurs are very distasteful.

Glad to hear that is so, and here goes with "a fair open assertion or accusation." The Nebraska legislature is a miserable lot of fakirs, getting alms on one hand from the railroads in the form of full free transportation, when the Charity Organization society can with difficulty get only half-fare for other paupers that it vouches for, and on the other hand swindling the "widows and orphans" who own railroad stocks out of a share of their earnings because all these fellows ride free. The "widows and orphans" could get a good deal more in dividends if the pass business was abolished.

The "fair, open assertion or accusation" that The Independent makes is that the members of this legislature are frauds, just like the fellow who was playing deaf and dumb and begging on the streets, that the Charity Organization had arrested and who was tried before a Lincoln court and sent to jail for sixty days. They are not so desperately poor that they can not pay their own fare, and not saddle the cost of their travel on those who do pay their fare, or if that is not done, rob the "widows and orphans" in lessened dividends. You are a miserable lot of proletarian grafters, the sort of villains spoken of in the scriptures who are reaping where you have not sown.

If the editor of The Independent gets into trouble on account of these "open accusations," it will be the fault of the Star, the recognized organ of the legislature.



Morals and Economic Force

Two cases have been reported in the newspapers lately that should attract the attention of socialists and moralists, that is, if there is any such thing as morals aside from ideas engendered by "economic environment."

They concern the abandonment of children. In both cases the parents were fairly well-to-do. A boy was given away to a band of gypsies and a baby was sent secretly to a foundling home because the parents "did not want them." If "economic force" produces morals, why should not that be the common practice instead of the rare instance? Is it not true that the moral

degeneration that is attracting attention is the result of changed "ideals" rather than any material thing? The ridicule poured out by some modern "scientists" on the proposition that men should and do follow ideals at an economic loss, is one of the degenerating influences producing the state of morals that is now attracting the attention of all good men.

Disturb Business Conditions

The cry "you must not disturb the business conditions of the country" has been a potent factor in politics for years. The effort to evade that charge by reform leaders instead of boldly replying: "That is just what we intend to do," has been one of the causes of constant defeat to every reform movement. What are the busi-

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