

France the other day. As far as an American can understand, it was the result of the attack of Combes, the late prime minister on the Catholic church, although the excuse for the adverse vote was a spy system that had been inaugurated in the army. The new ministers are now making a fiercer attack than the old ones did on the church. The object now is to force a termination of all government aid and subsidies to all religious sects and functionaries and make church associations, civil corporations, amenable to the same laws as other corporations.

During the last week five large hotels and two theaters have burned. Both the theaters burned in the daytime when no audience was in the building. In all these fires there has been no loss of life although a good many were injured. Most of the people escaped from the hotels in their night clothes only. It would seem to be wisdom on the part of the proprietors in these great hotels to keep a watchman on every floor during the cold weather, for that is the time when these fires usually occur. There has been two fires started in large buildings in Lincoln during the week, but they were put out before serious damage was done.

Roosevelt went to New York and made a speech on Lincoln's birthday and then went over to the east side and dined with the Hungarian club. The speeches were a sort of moral discourse. The precautions taken by the police authorities and secret service men for his personal protection were the most elaborate ever seen on this continent. They seemed to outdo the work of the Russian police when the czar travels. What is the cause of all this. Are we to have European conditions in this country from the beggars on the street, the tip takers in the restaurants up to the elaborate military and police scrutiny of every movement of our public officers?

There was quite an exciting scene in the house the other day. Congressman Sullivan of Boston was put up to make an attack on Hearst, claiming that Sullivan represented "the decent element" in democracy. When Hearst replied he showed that this representative of "the decent element" was once indicted for manslaughter committed in a saloon run by himself and his father. Then there was a hot old time for a while. The Independent must insist that this ex-saloon congressman was a fit and proper person to represent the so-called "decent element" in the present democracy.

The latest news from Kansas is that the bill for a state refinery has passed, but when it came to regulating the freight rate on oil, Rockefeller won out and instead of passing the bill it was referred to a committee. Upon the announcement of that fact, the men discharged by Rockefeller, were told in many districts to go to work. The people of Kansas have found that their legislature is a pigmy, when Rockefeller brings his heavy hand down upon it.

#### Voted for the Two Toms

Editor Independent: After so long a time I dug up a dollar to apply on The Independent and also one dollar for Watson's Magazine. I am getting along in years, am considerably on the down grade, but so long as I live I want The Independent sent to my address. I would as lieve do without my "corn meal," as to do without The Independent. I can say it, and say it truthfully, it's the best paper that ever came to my house. I am a mechanic

and owing to age limit my wages have been considerably cut down of late and as the cost of living has advanced so much I find it very hard to raise an extra dollar now and then, notwithstanding the howl of the God and Morality shouters about the great prosperity we are having. They simply perjure themselves when they say it. Standing around with their overalls on, shivering like dogs talking about how much money we have in this country, and they without a dollar to their names. Voting 'er straight. Such folks are to be pitied. I don't know what the pop. vote was in this county, was never able to catch on. I know of one though and that was myself. I went in solidly for the two Toms and have been voting that way since '76. I voted for every candidate the people's party ever put up and expect to as long as I live. Was one of the Vincents first subscribers to the Non-Con away back in the eighties. I am in hopes Watson's Magazine will be a success. Since Lawson has been ripping them up the back, magazines have become very popular amongst the people.

JOHN W. HAYS.

Fort Scott, Kan.

#### Must Have It

Editor Independent: I can not do without The Independent, and I consider Mr. Bryan the greatest man of the age. I believe that impartial history will write him so.

L. S. PARKER.

Seattle, Wash.

#### A Source of Satisfaction

Editor Independent: Please find enclosed one dollar. I did not think that I could afford The Independent this year, but I can not get along without it. It is a source of satisfaction to read the many views of so many people and the honest, straight forward advocacy of right principles in your paper.

O. A. CANFIELD.

Chicago, Ill.

#### No Tariff Tinkering

Editor The Independent:—A great deal has been said and written against what is called "Tariff Tinkering." Many of the leaders in the present so-called republican party declare that there should be no tinkering with the tariff by either party or either branch of congress.

I heartily agree with them in that protest. The tariff ought not to be tinkered with. But I will state what should be done with it. THE TARIFF SHOULD BE SWEEPED OUT OF EXISTENCE, ROOT AND BRANCH, and never again revived or proposed by any nation, pretending to be civilized and honest. That's the only proper way to deal with the tariff. The old thing is simply a fraud, from top to bottom, and center to circumference. Possibly there may have been a time—and a short time—when duties on foreign imports into the United States had something like a valid excuse for existence; but if so, that excuse has long since passed away. At the present time THE TARIFF, HIGH OR LOW, IS A NUISANCE, A FRAUD AND A CURSE. It is wrong in principle and vile in practice. It does more to foster lying and swindling than any other one thing pertaining to our political system.

Probably there are not three men or women in one hundred who, when coming from some foreign country into the United States, will not, if they dare, do more or less smuggling of goods or trinkets of some sort, and thereby avoid paying tariff duties. Scarcely anybody really regards such action a moral wrong, for instinctively they all know that every human being on earth has a natural right to buy goods in one country and take them home too, without being bled by a man-made law. The scheme is too bald-faced to command the co-operation of any honest person who will give tariff iniquity without prejudice.

No, let not the tariff be tinkered with. It don't deserve such treatment. On the contrary let it be swiped out of existence, forever and forever.

RALPH HOYT.

#### Down on Both of Them

Editor Independent: I was two years in the civil war and I have been down on both old parties ever since and will vote against them as long as I live. I voted for Watson and Tibbles and will do it again and again as long as I live if I have the chance, as I believe in true Jeffersonian democracy, straight and strong. I believe in the government making its own money. I am a straight out third party man. I like to read The Independent and you are a man after my own heart.

W. S. WALLACE.

Eskota, Texas.

#### Some Letters Criticized

Editor Independent: I have read a number of letters. Senator Allen's letter is good, Uncle Jake's is fair, but he is a dyed-in-the-wool democrat and Bryan worshiper. I have also read Mr. W. C. Starkey's letter, and will say to certain extent I was pleased in the same boat with Starkey. I was at the delegate convention at Fremont. I also was at state convention at Lincoln, and I got disgusted with A. Mullen of O'Neill, Gilbert of York, and Porter of Kearney. Now Porter never dared to show himself here at the convention, but when he got to the state convention he made up for lost time. Well enough said, but I would have done more, had it not been for the condition we met at the state convention. It seemed to me, the harder a person worked for populist principles the harder these fusionists pull the other way, and I have come to the conclusion that the fusionists are as much our enemies as republicans or the old democrats now in this county. In my neighborhood a great many populists, if they had the least idea that our Tom would stand any show of election would have voted for Tom Watson, but the way it was they voted for Teddy, and said of the two evils we choose the least.

In my own township most of the democrats voted as follows: Parker electors, Mickey for governor, for the democratic state ticket, and for Wall, republican state senator. Even W. L. Hand, on the populist ticket had been endorsed by democrats, and only one of our representatives who was a democrat, got the democratic vote. But that is not all. Our state central committee did a lot of work that discouraged a lot of populists so that they voted for Teddy.

I don't know for the life of me, why The Independent did not try and put a stop to such dirty work or at least expose it.

In conclusion, I will say: Count me as one that is opposed to fusion and will send you a club for The Independent and Tom Watson's Magazine. All these subscribers wish to be understood that they are opposed to fusion.

GEO. BISCHHEL.

Kearney, Neb.

#### Much Interested

Editor Independent: We expect to stay in the middle of the road as long as there is a road to stay in, and should the road grow dim we will not take the democratic fork. I am very much interested and will do all I can.

J. B. ENOCKS.

Lincoln, Neb.

#### A Prosperous Nebraska Company

The annual statement of the Security Mutual Life Insurance company of Lincoln, Neb., for the year 1904 shows that the company has done a fine business and closes the year in splendid condition.

The officers of the company are very much pleased with the result of the year's work and the policy holders should be well satisfied with the condition of the company.

The statement shows that the premium receipts for the year were \$137,101.54, a gain of 52 per cent over the previous year. The assets of the company are \$140,212.65, a gain of 72 per cent. New business written in 1904, \$2,392,318, a gain of 53 per cent. Insurance in force, \$4,319,187, a gain of 48 per cent. The company now has over \$100,000 in approved securities deposited with the state auditor to secure its policy holders. The statement demonstrates conclusively that the company is well established and worthy of the confidence of Nebraska people. Its business is confined to the state of Nebraska thus giving it the advantage of a low death rate and a high interest rate. The fact that it has these advantages and that the people are coming to realize it fully, accounts for the rapid growth of the business.

Any one desiring any information about life insurance can secure it promptly by writing to the Security Mutual Life Insurance company, at Lincoln, Nebraska.

#### A Milder Climate

In Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas

Stock ranges ten to twelve months in the year, two and three crops grow in a season. Now is the time to look up a location while the land is cheap.

On February 7th and 21st and Mar. 7th and 21st, Cotton Belt Route will sell round trip homeseekers' tickets from St. Louis, to points in above named states at 75 per cent of the one way fare, not exceeding \$15.

One way colonist tickets, February 21st and March 21st at half fare, plus \$2.

Write for map, time table and ask about rates to any point. E. W. La BEAUME, G. P. and T. A., Cotton Belt Route, St. Louis, Mo.

The new banking law that is being quietly pushed through congress will greatly decrease the volume of legal tender money, made by the government out of something, and enormously increase that of hocus pocus made by bankers out of nothing. Bankers are now collecting from 1 per cent a year to 1 per cent a day as interest on over 6,000,000,000 of this stuff, and its use is the sole cause of commercial panics and of most periods of disastrous business depression. "The Hocus Pocus Money Book" tells all about this and shows that a scunder, safer, and juster system can easily be substituted for it. Send immediately to Albert Griffin, Topeka, Kansas, 25c for one copy, or \$1.00 for five.

## REAL ESTATE BARGAIN COUNTER

### Farm Bargain

Four hundred acres, 240 under cultivation, 20 acres good stand alfalfa, bearing orchard, plenty timber, good improvements, 7-room house, granary, cribs, well, windmill, etc. Worth \$50 per acre, will take \$40 per acre to sell quick, or will accept small farm in an exchange. Terms easy and long time.

PAUL H. HOLM,

1045 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

### Lancaster County Farm

I have best 240 acre tract for sale in this county, lying six miles southwest of Lincoln. Large house, barn, hog house and windmill. Everything first class. Not a cheap farm, but cheap at price asked.

GEORGE W. HOLMES,

129 So. 11th St., Lincoln, Neb.

Eighty acre farm only three miles from city of Lincoln—improved. Has 2,200 fruit trees. Price \$6,000. Ranch improved and stocked to exchange for eastern Nebraska farm land. Value about \$10,000. Farm loans 5 per cent. Webster Investment Co., 1138 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

A fine fruit and stock farm only five miles from the city of Lincoln. Over 3,500 bearing trees. House, barn, etc., \$8,500 for quarter section. Another 160, six miles from city, good improvements and all fine land. Timber for fuel, running water some fruit. Price \$10,000. Farm loans at 5 per cent. Webster Investment Co., 1138 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

### FARMERS, ATTENTION.

Do you wish to sell your farm? If so, send full description, lowest price and best terms. Or, if you wish to buy a farm, ranch or Lincoln home, write to or call on Williams & Byatt, 1105 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

### SOME REAL BARGAINS

Farm of 125 acres, 7 miles from Lincoln; all choice bottom land; one mile from a good town. This is a real bargain at \$7,100.

160 acre farm 14 miles from Lincoln; one mile from small town; improved. Price \$40 per acre.

80 acre farm; 14 miles from Lincoln, but near three good railroad towns; very fine improvements. Price \$55 per acre.

Ranch of 720 acres in eastern Nebraska; fine improvements and up-to-date; will rent for \$1,000 per year cash. Price \$40 per acre. Improvements are worth one-third of the price asked. This price is made for a quick sale. This is an excellent investment opportunity.

Furnace county farm of 160 acres; improved and good income property; 5½ miles from town. This place is dirt cheap at \$16 per acre.

A great alfalfa ranch in the Republican valley, right in the midst of the sugar beet district; 1,340 acres; improved and is a splendid investment at \$16.50 per acre.

Improved half section of nice smooth land near McCook for \$3,800; rents for \$300 per year. Here is a chance to get a home cheap.

A very choice improved 9-acre chicken and hog farm; 3½ miles from town in eastern Nebraska; lots of choice hardwood timber.

Very choice 80 acre farm under perfect system of irrigation, never failing supply of water with perpetual water right; located in the Ft. Morgan district in Morgan county, Colorado. We will sell this farm at a bargain.

Fine 75 acre farm close to Lincoln, near the new interurban car line; well improved. Price \$100 per acre. This will double in value in a short time.

We have lands for sale in every part of Nebraska. Write us what you want. Also fine business property to exchange for farm land.

WEBER & FARRIS,

1323 O Street, Lincoln, Neb.

## \$25.00 Cream Separator



FOR \$25.00 we sell the celebrated DUNDEE CREAM SEPARATOR, capacity, 300 pounds per hour; 500 pounds capacity per hour for \$29.00; 600 pounds capacity per hour for \$34.00. Guaranteed the equal of Separators that RETAIL EVERYWHERE at from \$75.00 to \$125.00.

**OUR OFFER** We will ship you a Separator on our 30 days' free trial plan, with the binding understanding and agreement if you do not find by comparison, test and use that it will skim closer, skim colder milk, skim easier, run lighter and skim one-half more milk than any other Cream Separator made, you can return the Separator to us at our expense and we will immediately return any money you may have paid for freight charges or otherwise. Cut this ad. out at once and mail to us, and you will receive CREAM SEPARATOR CATALOGUE. You will get our big offer and our free trial proposition and you will receive the MOST ASTONISHINGLY LIBERAL CREAM SEPARATOR OFFER EVER HEARD OF.

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