

## The Nebraska Independent

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The epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis that has been so fatal in New York has reached Chicago. Several deaths resulted from the disease last week.

It makes an old pop feel good to think that he has lived to see Chicago go populist by 25,000 majority even if they do call it by another name.

The business man opposes the government ownership of railroads because it tends to the centralization of government and stops his rebates.

For twenty years some of us have been doing the endless, thankless tasks without which a cause dies. None of us are sorry.

The New York World says the "democracy is disorganized, divided and incapable." It is the opinion of The Independent that that is a very truthful statement.

The foreign missionary and tract societies are largely financed by the graveyards. It is bequests and conscience money from the big thieves that furnish most of the funds.

The transformation of the world lies in a correct answer to this question: Is thought a form of energy? If it is, after men learn how to properly use that energy, what may not be accomplished?

The patent medicine concerns are one of the great blessings of the land. If it were not for the advertising that they pay for in the newspapers, the subscription rate of most papers would have to be doubled.

Russia is still having trouble getting a loan floated. If she will agree to pay \$500,000,000 indemnity to Japan and abstain from fighting Japan for 25 years, she could borrow twice that amount within 24 hours.

In and around Judge Dunne, who swept Chicago with nearly 25,000 majority on a populist platform, there are any amount of political possibilities. There has been an impetus given to public ownership that will effect the whole United States.

That congressman who introduced the resolution should instead have asked for an appropriation to buy a few copies of Miss Tarbell's book. Copies of all the official documents, court decisions and description of the acts of pravity and robbery can be found there. The career of Rockefeller can be accurately made up from official documents, the authenticity of which no one denies.

## Why Harlan Was Defeated

The result of the municipal election in Chicago has not caused any surprise among populists. When we predicted four weeks ago that Judge Dunne would undoubtedly defeat John M. Harlan on a simple platform demanding immediate public ownership of public utilities in the city, we met just what the people did last Tuesday.

In the first place the republicans made a mistake—made an ass of themselves by evading the paramount issue and making up faces at Alderman Kenna. It seems that when republicans were short of material in reply to their opponent, Mr. Kenna was made a target for attack and criticism. The result of this personal attack on Kenna plainly shows that Kenna has been re-elected alderman by one of the largest majorities ever given an alderman in Chicago. The result further shows that republicans had no influence whatever. Their criticism and personal attacks did not in any way take a single vote from Kenna.

When the question of honesty is brought before the people in a municipal contest, they know that republicans will not in any way give them immediate municipal ownership; they also know that the republican party under the direct control and leadership of corporations will in nine times out of ten dance to the music of the ring and lobby.

While there are many city republicans who feel sore politically over the result of the municipal contest, we venture to say that they see the mistake made in attempting to make Alderman Kenna the issue. This class of republicans are naturally simple and lacking in the mental make-up.

Judge Dunne's election is another victory for municipal ownership—an indication that populism is vindicated. In every municipal contest public ownership of public utilities has received considerable attention, and it is apparent that the people will in the near future rise up and drive the corporation classes out of the political arena. The attempt to evade the paramount issue and make personalities a "side issue," practically defeated Harlan.

## On the Wrong Track

The way to get rid of any evil is to destroy the thing that it feeds upon. The trusts can be destroyed, not by Sherman laws and repressive legislation of that kind, but by enacting legislation that will prevent rebates, tariff grafts and special privileges. The way to destroy the lobby is not by enacting laws specifically making it a crime or driving lobbyists from the state houses and the national capital, but by electing men to office whom the lobbyists know to be of such standing and character that it would be no use to approach them. If you did not have criminal legislators you would have no criminal lobby. This universal denunciation of lobbyists that the plutocratic papers have been indulging in of late, will produce no effect at all and that is the reason that they engage in it. If one half the space was given to denouncing criminal legislators, the work would soon end in success and we would know the lobbyist no more forever. Let reform papers everywhere turn their attention away from the lobbyists and denounce the criminal members of legislatures. They are the men to attack. Get on the right tracks. With honest men in the legislatures and in congress there would be no lobbyists.

## Raising Up Straw Men

The fact that the municipal ownership ticket in St. Louis received only 3,300 votes last Tuesday does not in any way make municipal ownership impractical. Our republican dreamer, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, had such a severe attack of brain fever that the editor of the Cleveland World must have caught the disease from reading the editorial in the Globe-Democrat for he devotes nearly a column

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of his valuable space in attempting to show why the municipal ownership ticket was defeated. The principal point made by the World was to the effect that the honest corporations in the Mound City had been cheated and swindled by hoodlers and grafters who are now serving their time in the Missouri penitentiary. The editorial further states that under municipal ownership, there would be more opportunity for the henchman, the grafter and the hoodler.

Here is the brilliant republican logic told in a few words which shows the inability of republican editors and office-seekers to meet the issue. Furthermore it not only shows the inability to discuss the subject, but it plainly shows that the republican editors are a vain lot of ignoramuses defending and protecting the system that breeds grafters, hoodlers and henchmen. When the World declared that under municipal ownership there would be more opportunity for the grafter, he simply pulled his breeches down to demonstrate the fact that he had undoubtedly been thinking of an entirely new subject. Any sane man knows that under municipal ownership there would be no opportunity for the grafter or the henchman!

Only in cities where private interests own and manipulate the city affairs breeds the grafter and the henchman. No better illustration of this fact can be found than the one found in St. Louis, Philadelphia and other cities.

When the editor of the World declared that the voters in St. Louis did their duty in voting against the municipal ownership ticket he put himself in line with the corruptionists, grafters and political demagogues. He showed that the Mound City needed no reform and begged other cities to follow St. Louis—breeding graft, bribery and anarchy—making it criminal for people to speak against the diabolical system which is protected by

the arm of so-called-republican journalists. It must have been taxing for the editor of the World to work all day in attempting to prepare material against municipal ownership and found nothing but the vote in St. Louis.

## A Return to Torture

The independent has often called attention to the sweatbox methods of the police in the cities, and the cruelties and tortures they employ in attempting to force suspected persons to confess that they are guilty. There is no better evidence of degeneracy than the permitting by judges of these unconstitutional methods. The judge that permits it is more vile than the brutal police under whose supervision these cruelties are carried out. The men who laid the foundations of this government supposed that they had abolished torture. They did abolish it until the day of the keen and criminal lawyer arrived, who after practicing his deviltries in the interest of the trusts and corporations for a while is elevated to the bench and then we call him "judge," while the plutocratic press endeavors to impress upon the minds of the people that the "judge" is infallible. The San Francisco police have been engaged in their usual method of torturing. The report of their work is as follows:

San Francisco, April 11.—As a result of the torture to which she was subjected Mrs. Rosa Torturici, wife of the suspected murderer of Blagio Willardo is mentally and physically prostrate and is under the care of a physician. In an attempt to force a confession from her Mrs. Torturici was temporarily deprived of her infant and thrust into the autopsy room at the morgue, where lay the mangled remains of Willardo. She refused to look at the body, threw herself on the floor and became hysterical. Then the blood-stained cleaver with which the crime was committed and the blood-stained blanket and shawl in which the dismembered trunk was wrapped were suddenly produced with the re-