

Letters From The People

Hardy Suggests Some Remedies

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 8.—To the Editor of The Independent: All the governments in the world have improved during the last hundred years. It is very easy to see that our government has improved in many respects. It is equally easy to see that many more improvements should be made.

All our laws should be soaked with equal justice and benefit for every individual. Government justice should be more permanently fixed for every citizen, and we should have officers to enforce all laws to the last letter.

Special favors from government are very different from special favors from individuals. The unmarried man has a just right to give his earnings to any single individual. If he has a wife, he cannot dispose of his farm, with a clear title, without her name on the deed; so the husband should not be allowed to make a legal will without his wife's name. The wife should be made the only legal heir of the husband and the husband the only legal heir of wife. The marriage relation is dearer than father, mother, sister or brother. Mothers are just as reliable to care for children as fathers in case of either companion dying.

Corporations have no just right to treat individuals differently, charging one a higher price than another. It appears the railroad companies realized that it was unjust to do such a thing, and that was the reason they secretly rebated a part of the freight charges to the favored few, so the people are as secret as possible. Now the best remedy for these unjust dealings would be to make the rate of all freight and all passenger mileage so low that the companies would think best to keep all freight money they receive and charge all officers, lawyers and politicians the same per mile that farmers pay. The members of congress and of legislatures are paid for big traveling expenses. That money has been put into their pockets and bribers paid their railroad fares.

Another black spot in our government is the general failure of our officers to enforce our laws pertaining to intoxicating liquors, tobacco, gambling and prostitution. Women are the chief sufferers. If they were elected officers in many places, the laws would be much better enforced and if they were permitted to vote, better officers would be elected. In England the qualified women vote as well as the men and women govern there when necessary.

Our treatment of China has not been just. We are pleased to learn that the Chinese government is planning to meet us in the same paths of meanness.

Mad dogs and rattlesnakes licensed to run free in our streets would do the people but little harm, compared with saloons and tobacco shops. The men of Lincoln pay more money for liquor and tobacco than they do for food and clothing for themselves and families.

The sale of every thing that works injury and no good should be prohibited by law and the law enforced.

Delinquent taxes in this state is a black cloud hanging over us. Justice demands that all taxes should be collected in the year they are levied. Everything should be saleable—furniture, houses, live stock and land, without redemption. A million or two of unpaid taxes are now hanging over us. Taxes on many city lots have not been paid for fifteen or twenty years. Many of them are not worth the pile of taxes.

The grain elevator trust is being ripped open. The best remedy is to give farmers the same right to build elevators and the same rate for shipping freight. There are places in the east where they grind almost as many bushels of wheat as in Minnesota. Farmers could ship direct to the mill-owners, and grain dealers could take out no big profit. It is much better for producers to sell direct to the consumers. Grain dealers and railroad companies have objected to letting the farmers store and ship their own grain. The present anti-trust law will undoubtedly humanize the grain dealers, if fully enforced.

A change should be made in our high protective tariff. Something should be done to compel the manufacturers to sell as cheap here at home as they do in Europe. Farmers sell their produce cheaper here than they do over there. Wheat, corn, cotton, meat and other farm produce constitute over half our exports. There are few imports of that character. Farmers should

be able to buy manufactured goods as cheap as factory men buy farm produce. Equal justice should be the object of every law.

Less money should be collected and used for carrying elections. A single dollar used should invalidate the election of any candidate. Millions are used for carrying presidential elections. Votes are bought or voters are hired to stay at home. No carriages should be hired to transfer voters. If a man can't carry himself to the ballot box his vote is not worth casting. Saloons are furnished with election money for weeks before election.

H. W. HARDY.

Thinks Campbell Erred

Plymouth, Ind., July 9.—To the Editor of The Independent In a recent issue of your paper A. Campbell states that the Missouri World and the Southern Mercury both claim that the greenbacks are irredeemable government money. I have taken both of these papers for years and I have not seen in either of them any such claim. It is not populist doctrine.

Mr. Campbell goes on to describe what he wants and it is clear that he wants precisely what the Omaha platform and all other populist platforms demanded. He declares that most populists want an irredeemable money. So, too, does Mr. Campbell. Let anyone read his explanation of the money he thinks the nation should have and he must be convinced that it is irredeemable. He declares that by using paper, which is a cheap and convenient substance, the government can always regulate the volume of money in circulation to a certain amount per capita. We populists think that the way to keep "so much" per capita in circulation is to issue "so much." We demand \$50 per capita as about the proper amount. Mr. Campbell says that the government should issue all money and make it legal tender for all debts, public and private. Populists want a government money that is not redeemable like our present greenback. Mr. Campbell asserts that populists don't know just what they want and therefore can't agree. Friend Campbell should read the populist platforms and he will discover that his money is the 1892 populist money. He seems to think that his money is a new variety. It may be to him, but it is not to the genuine populist. It is old and good.

DAVID YEAGLEY.

"Free Trade Broadside"

Los Angeles, Cal., July 31.—Such is the name

of a bright, clean little newspaper, the second number of which has been received by the undersigned, and perused with intense interest. It is issued monthly by the Boston, Mass., "Free Trade League." It is ably edited, and its entire contents are worthy of careful perusal by every thinking man who has the courage of his convictions.

More than a page is devoted to a portion of Henry George's wonderful book, "Protection or Free Trade"—a publication that was never refuted and never can be. The fact is that the free trade sentiment is growing, both in foreign countries and in the United States, though not growing half as fast as it should, nor as it would if people were more generally eager to assert their independence and to declare boldly for what their own brains and common sense tell them is true and just.

The cold fact is that every human being is endowed with an inalienable right to trade with any other human being across the biggest ocean in the world. He has the same right as he has to trade with another across the smallest river, or the same right that any small boy has to trade jackknives with another boy across a small creek or an insignificant mudpuddle.

Every intelligent person knows that such is the case, and not one person in a thousand is very likely to reject an opportunity to evade the tariff laws unless compelled to do so from fear of punishment.

The tariff swindle is a fine thing for those who are already rich enough to yearn for a few thousand millions more, and who will get it, if possible, by fair means or foul.

We hope the "Broadside" will pour hot shot into protectionism until that infamous fraud in disguise is numbered among the infamous dead swindles of the past.

RALPH HOYT.

Preserving Fence Posts

Viroqua, Wis., Aug. 6.—To the Editor of The Independent. I see in your last issue a statement of posts made of iron with cement base; also of a way to prepare telegraph and telephone poles, or in fact any timber to go into the ground. Of course, people using posts know the rot is found at the surface of the ground and that above and below that point it takes a long time for them to rot; though generally they last longer above than in the ground.

I have a row of posts (green oak sawed) which I put in my front yard fence in the spring of 1871, and while I have not taken them out to examine them, I have this spring examined by pulling at some of them to see if they would break and I dug a little ways in the ground at some of them. They are all doing duty in the fence and apparently all sound. Of course I painted them for setting at a cost of about 2 cents a post. After setting I painted them red above ground.

C. W. BUTT.

The Independent's Special Offer

The subscription price for one year to The Independent is \$1.00. During the summer months, however, we are making a special clubbing rate whereby five new subscribers can get The Independent for one year for \$3.00. This will make the year's subscription only 60 cents if sent to this office in lots of five before September 1.

Below is a form of application for subscription cards. These will be furnished you upon request. Each one of these cards is good for one year's subscription. You can pay for these cards when you order them or pay for them when you send in the names. Money, however, should accompany the names when sent in.

Anyone ordering these cards will have the right to sell them for \$1.00 each and in that way earn a commission of \$2.00 on the lot or sell them at 60 cents and contribute the work done to the cause the paper advocates. No greater political battles have ever been fought than will be fought in the immediate future. In this struggle The Independent will be found in the front ranks battling for the people. You will want to read it. Your neighbors will want to read it, but you must call their attention to it. The Independent calls upon all readers to help in its campaign to extend its circulation and influence. Begin right now; if you put it off you will forget about it. If every reader would get five new subscribers The Independent's circulation would be increased five times. We are encouraged by the way applications for subscription cards have already come in, but we want every one to help in the work.

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