

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

ESTABLISHED 1889

Published Every Thursday

900 P St.,
Lincoln, Nebraska

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter, under the act of congress of March 3, 1879.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

Subscriptions—All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago.

Change of Address—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give the OLD as well as the NEW address.

Advertising Rates furnished upon application.

Sample Copies sent free to any address upon application. Send for sample copies and club rates.

Address all communications, and make all drafts, money orders, etc., payable to

THE INDEPENDENT,
Lincoln, Neb.

The threatened abdication of King Leopold is one of the newest sensations which the world is reflecting upon with magnificent unconcern.

Whatever happened to those lost plans of the battleship Nebraska, California will always believe that an emissary of the mikado stole them.

Great Britain proposes to abate not a jot of the tightness of the tight little Isle. The war lords in parliament voted against the tunnel beneath the English channel in fear of invasion by that route. The peace advocates voted against it in fear that such a subway would give excuse for more battleships. That made it practically unanimous.

Mosquito extermination by the use of petroleum has not proved the success it at first promised to be. In New Jersey the expense of keeping the stagnant pools coated with oil has been found prohibitive except in millionaire localities. Drainage, the method of permanent extermination, is regarded as the only genuine way of escape.

American workmen who clamor for more Sunday amusements may be interested in the strike now in progress in Paris among shop employees to secure the Sunday rest promised in the new French regimen. In the end, the man to suffer most heavily from a general abandonment of the old-fashioned American Sunday is the one who works with his hands.

Horace George Raynor requested William Whitely to lend him some needed financial assistance. Mr. Whitely refused. Thereupon, according to Raynor's evidence, he felt his blood surge to his head and the next thing he knew Whitely was dead. Here was a "brain storm" if ever there was one, but three months later Raynor is under sentence of death for murder. This occurred in England, of course.

Boss Ruef avers that the present attack upon him and his San Francisco officials is nothing more than an attempt to seize the municipal government. This is unquestionably the true analysis. Ruef has it. Somebody is trying to "seize" it away from him. That somebody may be merely another crew of pirates like his own, as sometimes happens. But it looks more like an attempt to "seize" it for its rightful possessors.

A chuckle of satisfaction will follow the publication of the news that immediately after the Erie road announced a suspension of improvements on account of the attitude of the legislature at Albany its stocks began a plunge down the toboggan. Investors and speculators alike seem to have concluded that the road was badly managed or was in a critical condition if it

could not stand the mild degree of regulation proposed by the New York assembly.

Fifty thousand dollars is being raised by subscription in Portland, Ore., to secure the services of F. J. Heney and Detective Burns to do to Portland graft what they have done to San Francisco graft. Is the time coming when cities in search of settlers will have to produce character credentials stamped something like this: "Investigated and guaranteed free from graft and official mismanagement by the Heney bonded good government guarantee company?"

Seventy-nine out of 125 republican members of the Massachusetts legislature announce themselves in favor of Roosevelt for another term. This sentiment will grow and continue to find expression throughout the country as long as a fear exists that the movement to nominate an anti-Roosevelt candidate has a chance to succeed. The interests that would least like to continue Roosevelt in office should write it in their check books that the surest way to force him to run is to create an alternative between Roosevelt and a candidate of their picking.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich, who died last week at the ripe age of seventy, probably belongs with the number who, while not ruined by wealth, were at least prevented by it from achieving all that their natural abilities seemed to warrant. In his later life, when the time seemed ripe for greater work than he had already done, easy circumstances and a reduced activity of pen came together. Of course it is only conjecture to say that had he been pressed by necessity into greater activity he might have won rank as one of the major American authors.

Pine for the warm spring days as we may, the warm wave that has visited Nebraska, and most of the country besides, has been anything but welcome to those who look into the future. Fruit buds are confiding things, and respond to the advances of a fervid March sun and and south wind as readily as to the coaxing warmth of May. After the forcing weather of the last week April cold snaps will be regarded with a great deal of apprehension by people who depend for their winter pleasure on a cellar full of apples.

That famous pulp ceiling in the Albany capitol has apparently been outdone in the Pennsylvania state house, where it has been found that lacquer was substituted for gold plate on the electrical fittings, and where domestic glass costing \$27,329.99 was used on a piece of work calling for French cut glass for which the state paid the contractor \$138,757. The architect seems to be in hot water over this glass item, for he certified that the imported article had been supplied. The American manufacturer identifies the glass, and tells to a cent what he received for it.

Since January 1 the price of oil of lemon has advanced 50 per cent. A like increase has taken place in the price of vanilla beans. This seems to bear out the contention of the opponents of the pure food law that the law would be a blow to the poor. The fact is that the poor and the rich can now buy somewhat cheaper than they could then what sold at low prices as vanilla and lemon extracts before the law was passed. Only it is not labeled vanilla or lemon. A canvass of the drug trade discloses that the improvement in the quality of drugs sold now is on the average more noticeable than the increase in price.

Under the provisions of the law establishing the Philippine agricultural bank investors are guaranteed a 4 per cent profit by the government. Notwithstanding, American investors are falling to take up the project, and the bank is apparently to be established with English capital. This means that American investments are still attract-

ive of American capital, notwithstanding the alleged damage to railroad investments by regulative legislation. It seems to mean moreover that Americans are indifferent to or skeptical of the value of Philippine trade. They will find that British capital in the Philippine bank will tend to draw Philippine trade to Great Britain.

Mr. Evans suggests permitting voters at the direct primaries to act directly with reference to proposed platform principles, as a means of bringing the platform nearer the people than a platform made by delegates or candidates might be. This verges so closely upon direct legislation that the thing to do, granted it were desirable to go the length suggested by Mr. Evans, would be to provide the initiative and referendum in its completeness as Oregon and Oklahoma have done. So long as we are to trust law making to representatives, however, there seems no safer way to proceed than to elect or defeat them on their own promises as to what measures they will favor or oppose, that is, on a platform made by themselves.

Thomas F. Ryan reaches solid ground when he declares that the railroads "should be taken out of Wall street and the stock quotation tickers should be taken out of the railroad offices. The practical railroad men who are charged with the responsibility of operating the railroads should be in absolute control."

One of the stinging charges made by Albert Shaw against the men who control the railroads of the United States is that they spend their days in promoting their private fortunes in Wall street and their nights in pleasure in the city of New York. Mr. Ryan is right and Mr. Shaw is right. The time is at hand for a complete reorganization of railroad management in the United States.

Karl Klein, an Auburn butcher, proposed to ship a quantity of lard to a Missouri customer. The railroad company refused to take the shipment, on the ground that under the packing house inspection law the lard would have to be inspected and approved by the government before it could legally be made an interstate shipment. The national government seemed all at once an exceedingly impertinent meddler in people's private affairs, and Mr. Klein appealed to the secretary of agriculture for relief. He has received notice that shipments by farmers and retailers made directly to consumers do not come under the inspection law. An opposite ruling would have created no end of inconvenience to communities near state lines.

Senator McKesson's bill requiring a large degree of publicity in grain prices has met with some opposition, but of a character to commend the measure to the average farmer. It is a short bill requiring grain dealers to send on a postal card to the state department of commerce and labor a statement of the prices they are paying per bushel for the principal cereals. The tax imposed upon the dealers is not more than one cent a day for the postal card required for the report. If it were necessary to pay this expense out of the public treasury it would prove a good investment, for nothing will do more to curb the ambition of dealers and railroads than the publicity involved in this system of reports. When the railroad rates are published in comprehensive and understandable form and the prices paid for grain at each station are put into tables by the labor bureau it will be possible to do away with many discriminations that have been allowed to exist in the past under the shelter of general ignorance of the subject. The bill looks in the right direction.

Injunction proceedings have been undertaken in Ohio to prevent stock and bond inflation of a number of gas companies, including the one serving Nebraska City. A holding company has been formed which it is alleged intends to bond the various

companies at more than their value and sell these bonds to the public. Should this deal go through and the cities affected afterward attempt to base the price of gas on the cost of furnishing it these purchasers of inflated bonds would lose and the cities would be charged with assailing the rights of property. The man who takes a mortgage on a farm or a town lot of more than the property is worth shamefully pockets his loss in quiet, hoping nobody will hear of his foolishness. When he takes a mortgage on a gas plant or other public service property of more than the property is worth he calls it a bond and expects the public to underwrite his venture by making rates high enough to make him whole. That, at least, was the system until lately. Both cities and bond buyers tend to learn better nowadays.

Nominations by the voters only in extraordinary cases is the ideal of the opponents of the direct primary in Iowa. It seems they do not dare defeat a direct primary law and yet cannot bring themselves to favor a direct primary that is such more than in name. It is the Illinois trick over again. In the state senate the bill has been amended to provide that nominations shall be by convention when the highest candidate receives less than a given percentage of the total vote. By bringing out a sufficient number of favorite sons a political machine could then nearly always throw the nomination into a convention whose action they could manipulate with almost all the eclat of old times. In a convention a candidate with one-twentieth of the delegates instructed for him can swing a nomination in case there are candidates for ten other offices each with a twentieth of the delegates to use as trading stock. A ticket can thus be made up of men not one of whom has received the endorsement of over five per cent of his party. The advocates of this system are nevertheless profoundly shocked at the thought of candidates being nominated by direct vote with anything less than a full majority of all the votes.

Secretary Taft, the statesman who has legitimized the junket, will start from Charleston today on one of his justly celebrated tours. Three exceedingly important problems of statesmanship now confront the administration from the outside and Mr. Taft is trusted as no one else to cope with them. The canal work is one, and the canal is one of the big war secretary's objective points. Either going or coming he will visit Cuba and lend the great strength of his personal presence to the second problem, that of getting the crippled republic on its own legs again. He will doubtless glance in on Porto Rico en route. He will barely have time for these chores when it will be necessary to start for the Philippines. He has promised the people over there, who regard their former governor as their best American friend, to be present and help at the christening of the new representative assembly which is to be born in September. Possibly the secretary will stop at Samoa, certainly at Hawaii, and perhaps at Alaska on the way. This will make his trip cover all of the American possessions. Needless to say the next president will have a great grasp of colonial affairs if his name is Taft.

It is not quite a Phoenix which we see rising from the ashes of the Boer republic. The assembling of a half Boer legislature within five years of the exile of Oom Paul Kruger may be said to be a case of Phoenix minus a few tail feathers and with its wings clipped. In place of Oom Paul there is Lord Selbourne, representing as British high commissioner the extinguishers of the Boer nation. But beside him stands General Botha, the best general of the Boers in that struggle, and Botha as prime minister will wield an influence which while not as great as that of the almost despotic Kruger, will yet probably be greater on the whole than that