

POPULISM. The party of fusion, populism and confusion in Nebraska and throughout the United States is made up, as a rule, of apostates from the principles of good government and common sense who have become the idolaters of rotund rant and vociferation.

Declamation and elocution are the motors of the populist organization and never since the world began has so much machinery been run by wind. Thought, argument, analysis and logical methods are as foreign to the expedients of populism as January is in daily temperature from July. Nebraska more than any other state in the Union has been privileged to observe the utter incapacity of the leaders of the fusionists for useful and practical reforms in either local or state government. Offices and emoluments for the few; taxation, vexation, agitation and irritation for the many—only that and nothing more. No capability except for blunders, no ability except for public funds.

EXTRAVAGANCE. Is it or is it not true that the bill appropriating something like twenty thousand dollars with which to pay the bounty for chicory frauds and adulterants was vetoed by Governor Holcomb and then passed over that veto by a republican legislature?

Who is responsible for this raid on the public treasury? Was it made by popocracy or g.-o.-partyism? "The grand old party" has enough grand old steals to answer for in Nebraska without assuming liabilities for the fusionists.

If the present fusion auditor has nerve combined with an honest ambition to serve the taxpayers of the state, he will refuse to issue a warrant for the chicory bounty swindle. Let him refuse! Let the claimants sue out a mandamus to compel him to issue the warrant, if any court will grant them that writ after hearing the case.

STANDARD OIL. The fervid Tampa Herald takes as perfectly truthful any testimony against the Standard Oil Company and again declares that all the directors of that oleaginous corporation "ought to be behind the bars" for the remainder of their lives. And yet the testimony is exclusively from their rivals and competitors in the oil trade. Would Editor Calhoun take as gospel truth all Northern allegations as to the treatment of federal prisoners by the confederate authorities during the civil war?

THE CONSERVATIVE knows no man personally connected with the Standard Oil magnates nor has it any correspondence with them. THE CONSERVATIVE has no doubt as to the Standard Oil having crushed by competition many competitors. In Nebraska before the crushing THE CONSERVATIVE paid fifty cents

a gallon for oil which it now buys at nine cents. The great multitude of consumers are more important than the small dealers who were crushed by cruel competition.

THE CONSERVATIVE saw millions of money in ox and mule trains engaged in transcontinental freighting between 1854 and 1866. And it saw cruel capital embody itself in the Union Pacific railroad and drive oxen and mules and their owners out of the transportation business across the plains. But the country at large is benefited.

INTROSPECTION. There are a large number of lazy, readingless, thoughtless people in the world who never toil consecutively with either hand or head. These intermittent laborers are frequently found denunciatory of those who steadily, day in and day out, make efforts, both manual and mental, to better their conditions and by thrift and frugality amass a competency.

The inert and unthrifty, looking into themselves, observe that if they could steal with impunity, they could and would become talented thieves. And from this introspection they conclude that all competencies are in the hands of their owners by virtue of larceny and robbery. Thus these mal-contented, who are mentally stagnant, morally putrescent and physically intensely indolent, are damning all those who succeed in life as rascals and knaves.

By this same introspective school of censors all men without fortune are pronounced idiots and all with fortunes villains. Take your choice. You are to be damned anyway by these infernal introspectionists.

A CHRISTIAN NATION. Some sickly sentimentalists have inquired through the sensational yellow-kid pulpsters and journalists:

"Is this a Christian nation?"
How can any sane citizen make that inquiry?

The United States is not only a Christian nation but it is more than that—conspicuously pious! It has Christianity up to and over the brim of this small continent. It slops over onto the West India islands and leaks out upon the Pacific heathen of the Philippines.

This is a nation full of piousness. Christianity which permits lynchings from Omaha to Atlanta and sweetly winks at Quayism in Pennsylvania, Plattism in New York and endorses corpse-making under the euphemism of "benevolent assimilation" ought to be scattered as a moral fertilizer all over this savage and unregenerated globe.

Religious! Christian! Pious! Look at our politics, our president, our senators and representatives, our Hannas, our saints!

THE CHICKORY BOUNTY. The Nebraska legislatures of 1895 and 1899 provided a bounty to be paid persons raising and manufacturing chickory in Nebraska. Chickory is an adulterant of coffee.

The American Chickory Company has been favored by these legislatures with the exercise of the taxing power of the state in its behalf. On February 15, 1899, The American Chickory Company filed a claim in the auditor's office of the state of Nebraska for \$19,090.12. In April, 1899, however, The American Chickory Company filed a new and revised claim for \$17,840.23. The latter is the sum appropriated by the last legislature in House Roll No. 603 for The American Chickory Company.

The act creating this fraud upon taxpayers and coffee-drinkers and encouraging this swindle by taxing all the people to pay it, is found in the session laws of 1895 and is entitled House Roll No. 67 (see page 57). But the consummation of this legalized larceny from the state of Nebraska is found in House Roll No. 603, which was approved on April 5, 1899.

This bounty act is unconstitutional. It ought to be declared null and void. Where are the men who will join THE CONSERVATIVE in enjoining the payment of this \$17,840.23 to The American Chickory Company?

Is it not a duty of this generation to provide against unconstitutional and unlawful taxation for itself and the generation to come? Ought this legislative-looting of the public treasury to be encouraged or discouraged?

THE CONSERVATIVE believes that it is the duty of taxpayers throughout the state to combine and employ intelligent attorneys of high character for the purpose of enjoining the payment of this money to The American Chickory Company. Under the Constitution of the state of Nebraska this legislation is absolutely void, but if we submit to it and the taxation which it entails, what guaranty is there that bounties will not soon be offered and paid by the state for a thousand other adulterants and frauds upon commerce?

THE CONSERVATIVE notes that this law which taxes all honest industries to encourage a dishonest one, provides that no manufacturer shall get a bounty upon any of his chickory made out of raw chickory for which he shall have paid the grower less than ten dollars and fifty cents a ton!

How many farmers in Holt and other chickory-raising counties have received that price for chickory?

It is the duty of the secretary of state to solve that problem!

The title of the act giving bounties for chickory and sugar is misleading. It is not constitutional. It conceals the creation of a new office at five dollars a day. The whole thing is robbery by law. Stop its consummation!