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## POINTS IN POLITICS

Last week in this department of THE COURIER, there was a consideration of the personal aspects of the local campaign. It may be well to consider some of the political issues involved. If an impartial review of the personnel of the various tickets offered to the voters of the county is to the advantage of the republican candidates, then an investigation of the general issues of the campaign is likely to add material strength to the republican cause.

Primarily, the chief question at issue in the county campaign is, Shall the republican party, naturally and logically in the majority, be successful in carrying all of the offices, or shall one or two sops be thrown to the populist Cerebus? Republicanism vs. Populism. Republicanism is live; the republican party was never so much alive as at the present time; it never meant more to the people of the country than it does now; it never deserved so much at the hands of the people as it does now. The republican party, as has been many times admitted in these columns, has made mistakes of omission and commission. It has sometimes advanced men who should have been left on the rear bench of obscurity. It has sometimes been chargeable with a neglect of the public interests for the sake of private advantage. No party that ever existed since the fabled days of Homer was guiltless of these weaknesses. But, and I am speaking now of the republican party in this state and this county, has there been another party that has anything like its record of achievement? Is there any other party that has elected so many good men to office, and given such satisfactory administration and legislation? Of the many thousands of republicans who have been elevated to positions of responsibility and trust in this state how many have been a credit to themselves, the party and the state, and how few have been proven recreant? The answer to this query is a certificate of good character for the republican party. The men who have made Nebraska what it is, have been, to a very great extent, republicans. The men who organized the state, made the laws and carried on the government have been, with few exceptions, republicans. And the result is a proud commentary on the party.

Now, what of populism? Let us see what claim the populists have on the consideration and votes of the people of this state.

Populism is a plague. It came without a summons, blasted without a reason, destroyed relentlessly, and now recedes as it came. Back of the populist party as we know it in this state, there is not now, nor never was, a single sensible, patriotic idea. It did not spring into existence to meet an emergency or save a state. It has never stood for principle. The populist party has not in six years given one valid excuse for its existence. It has given a hundred reasons why it should not live. The party grew out of a dissatisfaction—a dissatisfaction not with the manner in which the state was being governed, but with the inability of the republican party to provide places for all claimants. Unsuccessful candidates for office organized the populist party, and organized in this manner, it has from the first, while making a hypocritical appeal to human credulity, represented nothing more nor less than an over-developed appetite for office. The populist party was organized by the defamers of the state, and the party has

ever been a defamation and a disgrace.

Perhaps the most versatile and influential fraud who ever plied his trade in Nebraska is Charles H. Van Wycke. He is one of the men who are responsible for the populist party in this state. He advocated a new party because he had exhausted the office-giving resources of the republican party, with an appetite remaining that bellowed for "more." One of the worst things that can be said about the populist party is that Van Wycke helped form it. This man first showed us here in Nebraska what real demagoguery is. There have been many later demonstrations. About eight years ago there was a man in a little town in Gage county whose sole occupation was the defamation of Nebraska. This man lied and lied so often and so gratuitously that he finally secured for himself a certain notoriety. He helped organize the new party and his lying furnished him a livelihood for several years in the new organization. This man is Jay Burrows and he now lives in Lincoln. It is perhaps but just to him to say that he has of late weaned himself of the habit of misrepresentation.

Some years ago there was a steamboat engineer on the Mississippi river. The engineer moved to Nebraska and became a member of the republican party. He settled in Seward, and was elected justice of the peace. Then he was elected attorney-general. He held office three terms. He wasn't a very good attorney-general, and when he wanted still another term the republican party said nay. Then William Leese, for that is his name carried his appetite for office over to the new party. He was one of its chief organizers. As a demagogue he is only second to Van Wycke. These three were the main instruments of the organization of the populist party.

What has the populist party accomplished? It has succeeded in putting a number of men in office, and with few exceptions, these men have brought ridicule and disgrace upon themselves and the state. Three years ago a lot of populists got into the legislature. They controlled that body. The session that year was the most scandalous the state has ever known. The public money was scattered to the four winds. There was profligacy and shameless fraud. There was gross incompetence and downright dishonesty. There was disregard for the law, a defiance of the constitution. It was at this session that armed troops patrolled the state house corridors, when the capitol was in a state of siege for a week. C. D. Schrader, populist leader, publicly damned the constitution. Another member accepted a bribe and fled from the state. Many others stole supplies from the state relief commission. Sam Elder, in the chair of the speaker of the house of representatives, drew the ridicule of the entire country. Men like Newberry made spectacles of themselves daily. The state was maligned and plundered. That was the first real taste of power the people had. The populists elected McKeighan and Kem to congress, the former a clever man, but a professional dead beat, the latter ignorant and a persistent malinger of his state. The people elected William Vincent Allen United States senator. This man, when not boring the people to death by his galvanized speeches, guzzles and fights in the by-ways. Allen is worse than a mistake. He is a crime. The populists have given us Edgerton, Dech, Mart Howe, Rewick, Elder, Schrader, et al., and a fine lot now—is it not so? In the various counties in the state where they obtained control they proved themselves to be incompetent and in many cases dishonest. There is nothing in the populist record to point to with pride.

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