

# WEALTH MAKERS



IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE THOU EAT BREAD IF ANY WILL NOT WORK NEITHER LET HIM EAT

VOL. V.

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NO. 51

## LET US EXCHANGE VIEWS.

In the time intervening between now and the date of the People's Independent State Convention this and succeeding columns will be open to the Populists of the state to propose candidates for the ticket of '94, and for United States Senator, and to show reason for individual preferences. We shall not have space for anything more than names and brief reasons for the choice made, because we wish to hear from a great many. LET NO MAN BE HERE PROPOSED FOR OFFICE WHOSE CHARACTER AS WELL AS INTELLECTUAL QUALIFICATIONS THE WRITER WILL NOT PERSONALLY VOUCH FOR. If any candidates seem to be leading whom our readers cannot conscientiously support, by all means let us know why they are strenuously objected to. But let us respect one another's views, avoid anything tending to disharmony if it be possible without sacrifice of principle, and bear willingly those who differ with us. "In a multitude of counselors there is safety." But with many to hear from each must be brief.—Editor WEALTH MAKERS.

## Wants Powers, Gaffin and Others.

BROMFIELD, Neb., May 21, 1894.  
Editor WEALTH MAKERS:  
It seems a certain sign for victory this fall, to not only see so many Populists join in bringing to the front their choice for candidates, but to see them all name the "finest of the wheat"—all honest, good and able men.  
Please permit me to name a few as my choice:—For governor, Hon. John H. Powers; lieutenant governor, Hon. J. N. Gaffin; treasurer, Hon. Valentine Horn, of Hamilton county; U. S. senator, Hon. W. L. Green, of Beatrice.  
W. L. Stark of Aurora will be the next congressman from the 5th district.  
Yours for justice,  
DAN BURKEY.

## In Support of Congressman Kem.

SHERMAN COUNTY, May 19, 1894.  
I am not of that class who worship at the shrine of individual excellence, but there are times in our history when the right men for the exigencies of the occasion are providentially chosen as leaders and prove eminently successful. No man ever gained a more signal victory than the Hon. O. M. Kem in the Sixth congressional district. A man of the people, without wealth, but with a heart beating in sympathy with the toiling wealth producers, whom he has faithfully represented in his congressional career, his name will live in the memory of his constituency for all time to come. I do not claim that there are not other men in the Sixth district who would represent us as ably and faithfully as Mr. Kem; but I do claim there is not a man in the district that will meet with a more enthusiastic greeting from the People's party, and more cordial hatred from the twin relics of corruption and maladministration than Omer M. Kem.  
His patriotism and fidelity to our cause has called forth the vilest slanders a press utterly prostituted to the service of plutocracy and the devil could invent, and for this reason, if for no other, I am in favor of his re-nomination. To my mind there is no surer way of stifling these emissaries of Satan who attempt to blast the reputation of honorable men, than by placing them again at the front.  
Fraternally yours,  
C. H. KING.

## A Platte County Man's Ticket.

HUMPHREY, Neb., May 21, 1894.  
Editor WEALTH MAKERS:  
As per your request to announce candidate for state office, I wish to add my preference and those of a great many I have interviewed on the subject. Fifteen favored Gaffin for governor, four for Weir and one for Billy Bryan. Each one gave a reason for the faith there was in him. My own preference is Gaffin for governor; Mayor Weir for lieutenant governor; Honest John H. Powers, treasurer; and Hon. Warwick Saunders of the Platte County Argus for secretary of state.  
We elected Mr. Powers once as governor, but the Republicans and Democrats counted the ballots, and we as a party had nothing to say. Some of your correspondents want to nominate men for their oratorical ability, and others because nothing can be said against them. But it seems to me that truth and tried honesty and sterling integrity should be considered far more than a sensibility, or oratorical ability.  
Witness the amount of oratory daily in the Senate on the tariff measure.  
I see by the Omaha Bee of May 16th that they propose to raise \$10,000,000 annually for the benefit of Oxnard, and yet King Oxnard's paid servants as this place refuse to hire free American labor. The passport to the best fields is the word "Russia"—"No Yankee need apply."  
How long will this state of things

## continue before we have such disturbances as the Pennsylvania coke riots?

We must nominate and elect men who are unalterably opposed to such things on principle, and have the manhood and backbone to say so; and just such a man we will find in Mr. Saunders. He is a hard worker. Has edited a reform paper since the inception of the movement, and has struck as many hard blows in favor of liberty and justice as any man in Nebraska. He is favorably known all over the state, and is right in the middle of the public highway.  
No fusion or tie-up with Democracy. Yours for the best,  
A. W. MORGAN.

## John Stebbins Warmly Endorses Mr. Gustin.

SHELTON, Neb., May 18, 1894.  
Editor WEALTH MAKERS:  
We are very glad to see the name of A. J. Gustin mentioned for the position of state auditor.  
Since the campaign of 1890 we have known that Buffalo county could reap honor for itself and do the state a great service by pushing the name of Mr. Gustin for the position above mentioned.  
Mr. Gustin is known here as an honest, energetic, capable business man, and his nomination would please Frank and file of the party in this county.  
Men who are acquainted with the campaign work done by Mr. Gustin in 1890 (when the party had very few workers) believe he can conduct a campaign among the business men of the state that will add to the vote of the party.  
Probably there isn't a man in the state and very few in the nation outside the general freight offices who understands the transportation question as well as Mr. Gustin.  
For years Mr. Gustin has made the railroad question a study from a business man's point of view, and in a campaign he can show the business men of the state that their interests and the interests of their customers are identical on the freight rate question as advocated by the Populist party.  
We have seen J. N. Gaffin in trying positions and know the people will not make a mistake when they nominate him for governor.  
Where men have been tried and found true we do not believe they should be dropped for any uncertainty and we believe the farmers ought to be very careful about dropping farmers out of positions they have honorably filled to put lawyers in their places. Where changes are made we should demand the strongest pledges of fidelity to party measures and principles.  
In the Sixth district we favor the re-nomination of Mr. Kem. In voting for him the people do not take any chances. We know that in him we have honesty, ability and a tenacity of purpose that says we will "fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."  
JOHN STEBBINS.

## A Wheeler County Man's Opinion.

ERICSON, Neb., May 17, 1894.  
Editor WEALTH MAKERS:  
I read with pleasure the many interesting letters and able editorials in your valuable paper. I will simply tell your many readers that Wheeler county is alive to the real issues confronting the American people and elected a full county ticket last fall, except one commissioner and the county clerk; and these two relics of the two old parties will soon be wiped out.  
Our independent county officers are filling their respective offices in a way that reflects honor on themselves and their party. Our county treasurer, Frank P. Huston, would be splendid material for state treasurer if he was more widely known over the state.  
Seeing suggestions regarding nominations for state offices, I make the following, believing this would make our strongest ticket—and we must make no mistake this fall. Defeat now means for years; victory now means the state will be redeemed from corruption; and once so no honest voter will be so base as to vote for putting the reins of state into the hands of those who so basely betrayed their trust.  
I suggest for governor Mayor Weir. I believe he is true to the core and will draw a support no other one of our

## THE POOR ARE ROBBED.

The Friends of the Poor are Bandoned and Dragged to Prison.

## THE RICH OVERRIDE THE LAW.

The Rapid Absorption of Our Lands and Liberties by Conscienceless and Insatiable Corporations.

## A Sample Corporation Steal.

It will be a sad day for the rich when the masses of the people become aware that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor—that railroads can steal the people's land and play forever the modern highwayman act without punishment, but that the homeless, the landless, the hungry and moneyless work-seekers, cannot take a free ride on the highwaysmen's iron horses for a day or two without receiving swift legal retribution in the shape of months of imprisonment. Judge Riner has just sentenced a company of Commonwealth (whom the railroads will not suffer to ride for either love or money) to suffer four months imprisonment for stealing a ride to get where food and work could be secured.  
Mr. Coxe who was even innocent of the contemptible crimes for which he was prosecuted, viz., that he had carried a 2 x 6 inch banner of peace and trodden on the grass, was by the testimony of perjured policeman convicted, sentenced to imprisonment in the District work house, handcuffed, and with twelve white and colored every day work-house convicts (who were not handcuffed) was carried off to jail—his real offense being that he wished to (p-seeffully) speak in behalf of the unemployed and against bondage to the Shylock power.  
This nation is no longer a democracy, a government of equally free and independent citizens, but a government of the corporations, landlords, capitalists and money lenders. They own Congress, the legislatures, the courts and the laws.  
The great body of the laws are for them, to protect them in enforcing and enjoying usury.  
A few hundred people have under sanction of the laws, spread titles of absolute ownership over the authentic coal deposits which Providence placed in the subterranean fields of Pennsylvania for the common ownership and use of the people of the continent of North America. They are robbers whose hands reach into the pockets of almost every man who works. The stockholders of the railroads have also secured title deeds to almost all the bituminous coal fields of America, and demand tribute from the millions of the people whom Providence did not care for (?) when the coal was made. The Standard Oil company has legally stolen the stores of oil which the Creator plac'd in the depths below for all His children. The lumber kings have got all the people's lumber. The iron kings have got hold of all the best of our iron ore, and the same or others of all of our copper and lead and silver and gold. And a few have got absolute titles to most of the land on which the cities have to grow. And a few people own all the privileges and means of transportation, and have power to rob producers and consumers "all the traffic will bear." And a few own the machinery which is necessary to make use of the free and tireless natural energies which belong by divine inheritance equally to all, and make oppressive use of those stolen energies which God gave also to the poor.  
And so it has come to pass that the robbers are enthroned, and the defrauded grid in the prison-house of toil in the United States there were, according to the last census, 12,000,102 families. Of this number over half are tenants—in exact figures 6,599,696—and nearly a third part of the remainder have their farms and city homes mortgaged. And the percentage of the land less and homeless is increasing at a most alarming rate. Figures for city centers were not taken in the 1880 census, and the comparison cannot be carried out; but the farm tenant families of 22 states whose figures had been made up in December showed an increase of this class of 45 per cent. in the decade, and families in the same states who owned

farms, in the same period increased but 3 per cent. The landless in the cities without doubt increased faster in numbers if not in per cent, actually if not relatively. And besides, 30 per cent. of those owning farms have them mortgaged an average of \$1,130 each, and 29 per cent. of the families owning city homes are under mortgage averaging \$1,139 each.  
Corporations are fast gathering in all the wealth and natural resources of the people—railroad corporations, banking corporations, mining corporations, manufacturing corporations, street railway and electric corporations, the Standard Oil corporation and numerous gigantic trusts, milling corporations, stock-buying and slaughtering corporations, land syndicates, &c. Under cover of the law, usually, these powerful combinations of capitalists are demanding for their comparatively few stockholders who produce nothing a large slice of the product of each and every wealth producer in the nation. And so great is this tribute beyond what the profit gatherers use, even in their princely style of living, that they are able to go on buying up more and ever more of the natural resources, and the masses of the people are thus being reduced to a state of dependence upon capitalists and landlords which amounts to virtual slavery. Their birthright to the earth is denied, and they are the slaves of usurers, who are the rulers over all.  
The insatiable greed of the corporations and their disregard of the natural rights of men is being exemplified by the Illinois Central Railroad Company in its gigantic steal of the lake front around the city of Chicago. The story of this enormous robbery we clip from the Chicago Times of May 13th, as follows:  
Having already robbed the people of Chicago of the lake front between Randolph and State streets, the Illinois Central railroad is extending its stealings from Twelfth street to Jackson park. It stole a mile of lake shore without shame or penalty.  
Now it will steal six.  
When the mile was stolen the people stood by helpless. As the theft of the six miles will be effected by exactly the same methods as was that of the one mile the sovereign people may be expected to stand by as before.  
First figure out the value of the property to be gained by this gigantic crime. Taking the lowest valuation as a basis of calculation, so that no injustice may be done the thief, the stealings will bring a clear profit of \$100,381,250. Perhaps, for the sake of a clearer comprehension, it may be put thus:  
One hundred million, three hundred and sixty-one thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars.  
And the thief is the Illinois Central railroad.  
To throttle the law, to spit in the face of justice, to rob the nation, the state, and the city, to subvert the decrees of courts and of legislatures, all this that corporation will do and is doing in consideration of the sum of \$100,381,250.

## SCHEME IS RAPIDLY PUSHED.

Already the scheme has been put in practical operation. Daily the Illinois Central railroad is driving the waters back and taking for its own use the land it makes in violation of the laws of the nation and in the face of decrees from its highest court. From Twelfth street to Jackson park is six miles. For a railroad to build land out from the lake shore for a distance of one-fourth of a mile is easier than one might imagine. To do this is to create a strip of land containing an area of one and one-half square miles. To the Illinois Central railroad every foot of ground thus stolen from the waters of Lake Michigan is worth almost its weight in gold. This practice is the crime the law and the people. At least in the judgment of the offender it do so.  
For months the Illinois Central was planning this thing, and already a beginning has been made. Daily tons upon tons of earth are dumped into the lake and the waters recede. The railroad now controls every foot of the lake shore from Twelfth street to Jackson park. Once its control of the riparian rights extended only to Thirty-sixth street. Then the shore line was bought to Fifty-first street. At that point the tracks of the Illinois Central cease to skirt the lake. From Fifty-first street to Jackson park there was an extensive residence district lying between the railroad and the lake. This residence property and the streets intersecting it the Illinois Central even could not buy. It has bought the twelve to twenty-three feet of beach which borders this district on the east. Though it very slowly and unconsciously it is sure, but very persevering.

A few isolated lots remain in the hands of private owners, but negotiations for them are already under way and will be completed soon. Merely to gain absolute control of six miles of lake frontage was not the ultimate end of

these purchases. Once having the original lake shore under its control it would not be difficult for this corporation to extend the shore line into the limit of navigable water. Not difficult though quite contrary to the laws made and provided by the United States government. To find a dumping ground for the vast amount of ashes and other refuse incident to the running of some hundreds of trains daily has always been a problem with the Illinois Central railroad. By dumping these accumulations along the lake shore not only would they be cheaply and conveniently disposed of, but two square miles of land, worth at the lowest possible estimate \$100,381,250, would be created. That it would be done in direct violation of the law was the least of the company's worries. In extending piers, building side tracks, and repairing roadbeds it always happens that hundreds of car loads of earth have been drawn away. The company figured that this could be utilized as top dressing to the ashes which were to form the subsoil, the foundations of the tract it would create. The plans were matured long ago. Beginnings were made long ago. The completion of the job is in sight. It is all being done very quietly, very skillfully.

## The Way Out of the Woods.

BLAIR, Neb., May 18, 1894.

## Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

Somebody is in the woods and don't know the way out. It may be myself; I don't know. Possibly it is the other fellows. I want you—for I know no other man more capable than yourself—to show me the way out. If it is the other fellows who are in the woods, then I propose to show them the way out. Possibly we are all blind and will tumble in the ditch together.

I stand on the first sixteen words of the land plank of the Omaha platform. Here they are: "The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people."

Now it is an admitted fact that the great mass of the people have been robbed, cheated and swindled out of this their rightful heritage. Monopoly in land has robbed them. And you would just as well try to make a hickory shad climb a persimmon tree tall foremost as to expect peace, contentment and prosperity among the masses until each has restored to him his inalienable right to a spot of earth on which to live.

The masses—not excepting Coxe and all his lieutenants—have not opened their eyes to the fact that the distresses arising from enforced idleness are caused by ignoring and denying to each individual his natural, inalienable, imprescriptible, God-given right to a spot of earth on which to earn a living. The denial of this right forces the landless classes to bid against each other for the opportunity to work to keep from starving.

There is but one way out of the woods, namely, more of the people must earn their living by cultivating the soil. The main question to be decided is this: Shall these tillers of the soil be tenants living in huts and giving half of their earnings to the landlords for the privilege of working to keep from starving, or shall they hold a perpetual lease from the government for a limited amount of land for which they shall pay into the public treasury say one per cent. per annum of what his holding cost the government?

To show how this scheme may be inaugurated, let me give an illustration: I own a farm in Burr county that I would not sell and waste for ten thousand dollars. I would sell that farm to the government for one thousand and take the pay in greenbacks, provided the government will give me a lease of the same, I paying her not less than one nor more than three per cent. per annum on the amount she paid me for the land. And I will bind myself and my heirs to pay all taxes, keep my premises in good repair and not let a cockle burr nor a sunflower go to seed on the place. Now suppose all the land owners of Burr county should do the same thing—limiting the amount that any one man should lease from the government to not more than 160 acres, which would be injured by such procedure? It follows that each citizen of the United States would have an interest in all the land in Burr county, as much so as those who occupy it; but the occupants would pay tribute to the others for the interest they had in it.

I enclose you a circular in which my theory is more fully set forth. I have just had several thousand printed for gratuitous distribution. If my theory as set forth in the circular is not the best possible, I want you in a private letter or in the columns of THE WEALTH MAKERS to point out its defects; then I will turn my attention to the free cottage of silver, government ownership of railroads, &c., &c.  
Yours for the right,  
JACOB BECK.

[Mr. Beck's circular is printed in this issue. We invite our readers to examine it.—Editor WEALTH MAKERS.]

## SHYLOCK FAVORITISM.

The Populist Party Demands Money For All Borrowers at Cost.

## OREGON NOW LOANS ON LAND.

How Bankers Grow Rich, and Farmers Work Hard and Gain Nothing. Interesting Census Figures Regarding Wealth.

## Government Loans.

(Governor Penney of Oregon made a notable Populist speech to about 10,000 people in Portland recently, from which we quote below.—Editor WEALTH MAKERS.)

The government now loans money only to the national banker. When he wants money he goes to the government and pawns his bonds at nine-tenths their face value. He receives his money and leaves his bonds in pawn. The Populist party demands that this exclusive favoritism shall cease. They demand that every person having good security shall be placed on an equality with the national banker. If the government should follow the example of the state of Oregon, which loans its \$2,500,000 of school money upon improved farm property in amounts not to exceed \$5,000 to any one person and at one-third of the appraised value of the property, there could be no safer loan possible, and the effect would be both far-reaching and beneficial. It is not an experiment. The practicability and usefulness of the scheme have been most fully demonstrated here in this state. And something of this kind must be done soon, or the money-lenders will own the whole land and all other classes will become their tenants and slaves. Even monarchical Russia was compelled to adopt this plan to save its peasant farmers from ruin. Frank G. Carpenter, the noted syndicate writer, in an article which appeared in the Oregonian, October 20, 1892, said: "The government (Russia) has a land bank which loans money to the peasants in order that they may purchase land. This bank was opened about ten years ago, and it makes loans to both individuals and to villages. The government puts about \$2,500,000 into it every year, and since its organization it has made over 500,000 loans to more than 200,000 families. In addition to this there are various ways of loaning money to farmers, and the government of Russia makes advances on grain stored in warehouses or delivered to officials of the several railroads in the country. . . . This system of loans has been going on now for more than four years. It is very popular, and a great many of the peasants take advantage of it.

It is no wonder that they do so, for the charges are much less than those of the usurers, who abound in every district of Russia, and who are sucking the life blood out of the people." It is indeed somewhat humiliating to our pride, who claim to be the most enlightened people of the earth, that we are compelled to go to Australia for a perfect system of voting, to Switzerland for a just system of making laws, to Austria for a needed system of government depositories, and to Russia for a most necessary system of loaning money to the people. Let the government accede to the demands of the people and loan money, as in Oregon and Russia, on landed property at a rate not exceeding 1 per cent. and in limited amounts to each person, and establish government depositories as in Austria, paying not exceeding 2 per cent. interest on deposits, and a perfect financial system will be established that will both protect the borrower and the depositor, and yield a princely revenue to the government, which, to a very great extent, would relieve the people from taxation for its support, and which would arrest the fearful tendency in this country to the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few. According to the census reports in 1890, 90 per cent. of the people had 91 per cent. of the wealth, while 4 per cent. had the remaining 9 per cent., leaving not more than 5 per cent. paupers. The census of 1890 shows that 90 per cent. are living from hand to mouth, practically paupers, while 10 per cent. own 91 per cent. of the wealth. To some extent tariff legislation has been responsible

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