

WEALTH MAKERS



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

WHAT ABOUT THE PLATFORM?

[Those who have convictions regarding what should be demanded in our state platform are invited to send their ideas for publication.—EDITOR WEALTH MAKERS.]

S. H. Sornborger's Best Judgment
WABOO, NEB., July 23, 1894.
Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

Your request for suggestions as to our next platform and what it should contain is timely. Principles are of more consequence than the names of men which stand as their exponent. It is more important that we be right than that we immediately succeed. Success without a well defined and well understood purpose of economic progress, would be equivalent to failure. Hence, so called "fusion" with any body of men not fully imbued with the principles for which the name "Populist" stands, while it might appear, from the politician's standpoint, to promise success, is sure in the end to prove a failure. If Populism were the exponent of no other purpose than the "free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold on a ratio to each other of 16 to 1, regardless of the action of any other nation on earth," the party might well disband, with a recommendation to its members to join the "free silver democrats" of this state, and so wipe the "gold bug Democrat" out of existence, so to speak. But this party stands for much beside "free silver." Indeed, free silver is but a small fraction, a bagatelle, of the things its adherents seek to accomplish, therefore we cannot utilize those whose political horizons are circumscribed and limited to the one (very desirable) idea embraced in the term "free silver."

Therefore let us ignore Mr. Bryan's criticism, that the Populists advocate some measure which seem to him "impracticable" (he will change his mind some day, and it will be then time enough to give him a good thing), and continue the advocacy the great economic changes embraced in—

1. A radical increase in the volume of money, including the free and unlimited coinage of silver on a ratio of 16 to 1, the abolition of banks of issue, state or national, and the establishment of a direct issue of paper money by the government and without any bank intermediary.
2. Nationalization of railroads, telegraphs, and all means of transportation and communication.
3. Abolition of alien ownership of land. Individually I favor the Single Tax on land, but we have not come to it yet, probably, especially in the west.
4. A graduated income tax.
5. The establishment of the postal bank of deposit.

So much should be declared as our general platform, as the declaration of the things we wish accomplished by the nation. In addition we should, I think, give endorsement to the maximum freight rate bill enacted by the last legislature, and deplore the dilatory and unprecedented action of the Federal court of this district in interposing its jurisdiction to restrain its judicial operations. We should declare for the direct election of United States senator, for the passage of laws authorizing municipal ownership of street railways, water facilities, gas and other lighting.

We ought to discuss the question as to whether the time has not come to stop the further sale of our school lands, and retain the remainder thereof for lease only, and not for sale. It would have been well had we done so 20 years ago.

Would it be well for us to favor the principle that the state or the nation should sell all intoxicating liquor which shall be made all that shall be made and import all that shall be imported, to the end of minimizing its baleful influence? Sometime we shall be called upon to discuss and to act on this question. It is time now to be at least thinking of it.

While, individually, I favor woman suffrage, I am not prepared at this time to advocate its incorporation into our state platform. There are reforms demanded of such transcendent importance to even our wives, mothers and daughters as a part of the masses of the people, that this question ought to wait the solution of those other great questions.

We must be courageous and aggressive, yet conciliatory to those who wish

well to humanity, but not to the degree of sacrificing a principle to gain "loaves and fishes." We champion the abolishment of great economic wrongs. These wrongs cannot be abated in a day nor in a year, and perhaps not in a decade. They were ages in growth; they will needs die hard. Fusion for temporary gain, to get the offices, will never destroy them; persistence and a never ending struggle will. Humanity progresses, generally slowly, sometimes by leaps and bounds. The first is evolution, the latter is revolution. Evolution is best.

S. H. SORNBORGER

A Letter From J. V. Wolf.

LINCOLN, Neb., July 21, 1894
Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

Yours requesting my opinion of what our next state platform should contain is before me. You say, "It has been suggested, by our most thoughtful correspondents, that a discussion of the platform, on which our candidates are to stand, is even more important than the question, whom we shall have to stand on it." I know that they, and you will excuse me if I express my serious doubts as to the correctness, and soundness, of this statement. I may be wrong, but, after years of experience, and observation, I have come to regard party platforms as of very little consequence as compared to men. Platforms may be, and they ought to be, all right, but without men who are also all right, they amount to nothing. Parties, in their platforms only profess, while men in their official capacity have to perform. Platforms cover, comparatively, but few of the questions upon which men, elected upon them, will be required to act, and they are easily and often ignored. Instances are numerous where the platforms of parties were comparatively right, while the men were positively all wrong. The last national platforms of both the old parties favored bi-metalism, but the men voted, as a rule, for a gold standard. The republican party of this state has, for years, resolved in favor of a reduction of freight rates, and other needed reforms, but its members of the legislature have voted against them all. For these, and other reasons that I might give, I have come to regard party platforms of but little consequence compared to men. In my humble opinion, the greatest, and most pressing demand of our time is, not for sound platforms, but for sound men, men who are first wise enough to know their duty, and, after that, honest enough to do it, either with, or without, a platform. I would much prefer such a man, without any platform, to the wisest and best platform without such a man on it. My ideal of a man, either in or out of office, is one who is capable of knowing what is right, between man and man, and who is incapable of knowingly doing his fellow man a wrong. Give me such a man, or such men, and I will be satisfied with almost any kind of a platform that our people, when they go to Grand Island may see fit to adopt. But your "most thoughtful correspondents" and I differ only in the degree of importance to be attached respectively to our platform, and the men to be placed upon it.

I apprehend but little, if any, trouble about our state platform, when we shall get together at Grand Island. If there is any party that is presently united, in its demands, it is certainly the Independent party. We can all certainly agree in reaffirming the principles and demands of the Omaha platform. We can agree in demanding a more economical administration of our state affairs, and a more strict accountability of public officers for moneys appropriated and expended. If the supreme court should decide the maximum rate bill unconstitutional, which it is likely to do, we can agree to pass it again, or one of similar import. We can agree that our common school fund shall be increased according to law, and without "pay off," of thousands of dollars, to pay for leases and bond speculators. And, in fact, I feel sure that we can all agree upon everything that is absolutely necessary to the betterment of our condition as a suffering people. The only danger I imagine is in demanding too much. Let us get something before we demand everything, although the things demanded be, in themselves, right. If the chief of the apostles could say that "all things are lawful for me but all things are not expedient," the chief of

parties can certainly afford to adopt his inspired words. I, personally, believe in many reforms, outside of those we have already demanded, but I also believe, that if we can get those demanded, that it will be much easier to get all the rest than it will be to get any if we demand them all at once. If I had to suggest but a single addition to our former demands for state legislation it would be in favor of what is now known as the principle of the "Initiative and Referendum." I believe that the nearer we can get to, and the more we rely upon, the people themselves, the better it will be for us, and I have always been opposed to the veto power in the hands of any one man.

These, Mr. Editor, are simply my individual views frankly and honestly expressed, and you and your readers can consider them for what they are worth. We are about to enter upon a campaign the most important in the history of our organization, or that of the state, and all pet schemes, and all pet men, should be lost sight of, and the wisest, and best men should be sent to Grand Island, to make a platform, and place upon it a ticket, solely in the interest of success, and the success of our demands. This done, and what little influence I may have, or what ability I possess, as far as I am physically and financially able, shall be devoted and consecrated to the work of final triumph in November.

J. V. WOLF.

A Strong Argument for Direct Legislation.

LOUP CITY, Neb., July 16, '94.
Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

Allow me to thank you for the emphatic declaration in your issue of the 12th inst. in favor of making a demand for the Initiative and Referendum the first plank on the platform. It is time we make this the issue of issues, and I hope the office-seeking element in our own ranks, to whom extreme partisanship is a veritable elixir vitae will not be strong enough to side track it.

We can, in almost any neighborhood, find ten Republican or Democrats who assent to many of the reforms we advocate, where we cannot find one who will join our party.

Party organization is justifiable only as a means to an end—is at best but a necessary evil, necessary only under present prevailing conditions; and in the event of party success it has invariably proved an impediment to honest government, and a prolific source of political corruption.

In attempting to secure the enactment of laws for the reform of present abuses we are hindered almost as much as we are helped by it, because we offer no alternative to honest Republicans and Democrats except to do violence to their personal preferences; or, being a minority in their party, to cast their ballots in the interest of monopoly; a faulty arrangement which has furnished our opponents the most formidable bulwark on checking our advance.

In the same way we are handicapped through being obliged to bunch our proposed reforms in a party platform when our nominees are pledged to support it in entirety, though fully aware that it is repugnant to, and will be antagonized by many honest voters on account of the presence of obnoxious planks, or the absence of others which they feel bound to advocate, and which the monopolists see to it are embodied in the platform of some other party.

In correcting this mistake of bunching our reforms let us begin at the beginning.

Legislation through representative bodies rests solely on the ground of convenience; and though the sophism is now expiated that any body of representatives, however select, know better what the people want, than they do themselves, yet in a country so extensive as this, in view of the prospect of having to manage banks, railroads, telegraphs, works for lighting and irrigation, war-munitions for the deposit of grain, cotton, lumber, coal, minerals and other minerals and labor products, as a basis on which to issue the needed medium of exchange, the practicability of an arrangement such as the Referendum, under which all acts of the legislature would need formal endorsement by the voters ere they could become laws, will at least be questioned by many.

It might suffice for the present if we secure amendments to our state constitu-

tion by which the veto power would be taken from the governor, and in its place the voters be empowered, on presenting petitions signed by forty per cent of the aggregate number of registered electors in the state, to demand that any measure, not incompatible with the constitution of the United States, which they shall deem necessary, be submitted for their approval or rejection at a special election, within thirty days from presentation of the petition, irrespective of whether the legislature is or is not in session, or whether the measure has or has not been already passed upon by it or the state courts; and if approved by a majority of said electors, such measure shall become law without further legislative endorsement; and, as the act of the people, shall not be vetoed, changed, or set aside by their servants in any department of the government, executive, legislative, or judicial.

Such an amendment, by empowering the people to take the initiative in introducing needed reforms, and carrying them into effect, would remedy the weak point in the present constitution, under which they are debarred from acting for themselves in making the laws they desire, unless their servants in the legislature by a three-fifths vote conclude to permit them to do so. It would also deprive a corrupt judiciary of the power to nullify such laws as the people might make; and there would remain but little inducement for the corporations to spend money to corrupt our representatives in any department of the government, as the people could at any time constitute themselves a court of last resort for the final adjudication of any matter deemed by them important enough to call for their interference.

As it would be useless to expect a majority of the electors to vote for any measure for which forty per cent of them could not be induced to petition the cause of reform could suffer nothing from requiring so large a percentage, while it would deprive its enemies of the power to harass and weary the people with the turmoil and expense of elections called for undesirable or unnecessary purposes.

As the cost of getting up petitions, and verifying and forwarding them when signed, would be borne by the promoters, it would not be open to the objection of entailing needless expense on the taxpayers; while it would furnish the most effective means of calling the people's attention to needed reforms and would afford the electors an opportunity to vote their sentiments, on any question unprejudiced by other issues.

A wide field would be furnished for those who have the necessary magnetism and ability to urge the cause of reform before the people, without coming under the stigma of being office-seekers; and as the task of looking after details and the performance of its duty by the executive would be regulated to the legislature our representatives would be selected for the honesty and business sagacity essential to efficient committees orators.

If properly presented to the people, and supported by the evidence of sincerity and the courage of our convictions on our part through selecting, as far as practicable, members for official positions on the ground of personal character and capability irrespective of partisanship, making the election of the three-fifths of the legislature necessary to secure the right of the initiative to the people the main issue of the campaign, it does not seem unreasonable to hope for success in our own state, and if successful now, our example would give an impetus that would go far towards extending the reform to the national government in '96.

And further, keeping in remembrance that the observation that "one man's vested rights are often another man's vested wrongs," is a true and backward as forward; that this generation is responsible, and should suffer for its own mistakes; that as we are responsible for making private ownership of the material resources a lawful, and, in the absence of any issue by government of certificates of value for products and proceeds deposited, the only safe and reliable investment for the fruits of honest toil, we cannot be justified in exercising the right of eminent domain we confiscate honest investment

(Continued on page 5.)

FOR THE CONVENTION

The Wagon Brigade and Overland Route to Get There.

GRAND ISLAND IS THE MECCA.

A Plan to Bring in Ten Thousand People and Spread Enthusiasm in Radiating Lines Everwhere.

The Time to Plan is Now.

ELGIN, Neb., July 15, 1894.

J. A. Edgerton, Sec'y State Com.

The People's Independent party club of Elgin, Antelope county, Neb. beg to submit a plan to represent themselves at the coming state convention. Their idea is to extend an invitation, through THE WEALTH MAKERS to sections north, east and west to line in with us and proceed to Grand Island in a body. If the plan is feasible, Antelope county would form the procession at Elgin and start on Monday, August 20, and all other places represented to the north of us should line in with us at that place and time, and drive the first day to Albion, hold a banquet on the evening of the 20th; then the second day proceed to Fullerton; the third day to Central City, and on the 4th day reach Grand Island. All points along our line are invited to join us. If you approve of our idea please have the plan published through THE WEALTH MAKERS so it will come into the minds of the people of every direction to make the 24th of August the greatest day of this year. I would say that Antelope county will not confine herself to the delegates only, but included to their friends, wives, sons, and daughters. Inclosed please find diagram of our proposed route. If you approve of this plan I would urge that it be published this week yet; so that other sections may grasp the idea and prepare for it. Please mention how we propose to travel, so that people in our direction will watch for us.

Yours for victory,
E. L. BENDER,
Sec'y of Elgin's People's Independent Party Club.

P. S.—Please inform us when would be the earliest date that we could obtain either Mr. Devine, Green or Weaver, to come and speak to us and we will arrange for a crowd, with a picnic.
E. L. B.

The above and accompanying diagram did not reach us till after we had gone to press last week. We are very glad to give it space in THE WEALTH MAKERS now, and this paper strongly endorses the plan. Our readers remember that we were the first to advocate it months ago. We want numbers, voices, noise, enthusiasm—as well as the truth. Multitudes draw multitudes. Numbers create enthusiasm. Momentum gathers power.

Now, then, we will give the substance of Mr. Bender's diagram and plan. Let the teams which are to form the convention caravans understand what principle routes are to be followed, and places and dates where and when they are to come together. Convention teams from Orchard, Savage, Weigand, Bazille, Brunswick, Plainview, Neligh, Clearwater, Oakdale, Pierce, and other points should meet at Elgin, August 20; and from there the route would be through Albion, Fullerton and Central City to Grand Island. Another line may be chosen for the Ponca, Wayne, Norfolk, Madison and neighboring towns.

Another company should draw together and come down on Grand Island via St. Paul. Another route should run in from Ord. Another from Broken Bow and beyond. Another from Red Cloud and other points branching from and concentrating in Hastings. (There is already a plan well started, in charge of John E. Maners of Hastings, to bring together the convention teams from Nuckolls, Clay, Webster and other counties, and hold a meeting at Hastings, Aug. 22, a barbecue and great mass meeting. Senator Allen is expected to be one of the speakers of that occasion.) And of course the Hastings company of teams, greatly augmented at that point, will move on to the Populist convention Mecca, Grand Island.

Other routes from the southeast and east and along the line of the U. P. railroad should be at once agreed on and caravans planned for. Who will volunteer to work up and command these wagon brigades? Let us bring in a host of people and send up a shout that will shake the Republican walls.

The enthusiasm of 1890 repeated this year will bury the Republican party too deep for resurrection. Every thing now favors making converts to the

Populist faith. Now then for a strong pull all together for the redemption of Nebraska. Three cheers for our state convention. Let everybody go by wagon who can take the time. The expense will be much less than by rail. Let us make it a time of need-d recreation and have the biggest time that the state of Nebraska has ever known.

Surely, Comrades, the Column Shall be Given.
OGALLALA, Neb., July 23, 1894.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

Having just finished reading Comrade Mart Howe's open letter in last week's issue of THE WEALTH MAKERS, and as Comrade Howe voices the sentiment of all old soldiers who are not blinded by old party fealty, the thought occurred to me that it would be a good plan if you could devote a special column for the old soldiers to express their political views in. While most of us are not proficient writers—as our younger days were spent in the manual of arms instead of going to school—yet we can give expression to our sentiments in a short, precise manner, that can leave no doubt in the minds of any how we stand on the great questions of the day. Such expressions should, and I think would, have weight with all men who take into consideration the true welfare of this nation for which the old soldier suffered so much to perpetuate. I have noticed in our People's party conventions that there are always a goodly number of old soldiers there and they are not ashamed to stand up and be counted either. The Keith county delegation this year to the state convention and also to the congressional convention will have two in its ranks who stood up for "Old Glory" from '61 to '65. Give the old boys a chance to shoot off their mouth—through the best paper in Nebraska. Now boys, "fall in."
JOHN W. WILSON.

Letter From V. O. Strickler.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

I have just learned that Hon. W. H. Denson, at present a member of Congress from Alabama, has come over to the People's Party. He was elected as a Democrat but when that party sold itself to Wall street, and joined hands with the Republicans in an effort to fasten the chains of industrial slavery upon the people of this land he declined longer to fight under its banner, and after bidding it a farewell returned to Alabama where on last Monday he took the stump for the People's Party ticket. All praise to this man who after becoming convinced that his party no longer stood for what he believed to be right, had the courage to leave it, and to cast his lot in with the only party that believes in equal rights to all and special privileges to none. If all men had this courage we should see such an exodus from both the old parties as would make the Populist cause triumphant from one end of the country to the other. They cannot remain in the old organizations and at the same time be in favor of principles on which the new is organized. The time has come when every voter must take a stand in favor of the system which has brought the country into such a dreadful condition, or by his ballot he must register his opposition to it. A vote for either of the old parties means a vote to continue present conditions, and while a rabid partisan may not agree with all of the minor traits of the People's party, yet voting for that party he registers a protest against existing conditions and declares himself in favor of a change. I am inclined to believe that the worst enemy the new party has is the man who claims to be in favor of all its principal issues, and at the same time allows his partisanship to keep him in his old organization. I am glad to be able to say that the present indications are that three other members of Congress will soon follow the example of Mr. Denson, and before the present campaign is over will raise their voices in their own states in behalf of the people's party. Let us hope that among the thousands of good people who live upon the silted prairies of Nebraska there may be many who at the coming election will follow the example of these noble men, and sacrifice partisanship in order that reason and conscience may direct their votes.

V. O. STRICKLER.

Dr. Miss Pain Pills cure Neuritis.