

# WEALTH MAKERS



IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE THOU SHALT 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.]

### A TRUMPET VOICE.

Porter of Merrick Calls 3rd District Populists to Fight Fusion.

CLARKS, Neb., July 28, 1894.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

In response to your query, "What shall we have in our state platform," I will try and give a brief suggestion. First endorse the Omaha platform, then perhaps reiterate some of those demands, as the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. Demand the speedy payment of the national debt and the repeal of the national banking act of February 25, 1863, and in its stead the establishment of a system of government banks to lend money direct to the people at cost and at the same time affording them a safe place of deposit, pointing to the present panic as absolute proof that such a system is needed to prevent panics.

Point to the present labor troubles and again demand government ownership of all railroads and mines. Declare for the Initiative and Referendum, election of United States Senators by a majority vote of the people, and anything else we may agree upon. In my judgment our candidates for Congress must make their fight largely on the free silver issue. Of course I do not mean by this that they must neglect the other reforms we demand, many of which are of more importance perhaps than free coinage; but this one idea must be kept to the front to win, as there are thousands of free silver Democrats and Republicans that don't understand the necessity of these other reforms that will vote for our candidates on the silver question alone if properly kept before them.

I have no fears for our state convention, either for our candidates or our platform. But it looks as though in some of our congressional districts, our people had been listening to the siren song of free silver Democracy fusion this is especially true here in the Third.

I think the Independents of Merrick county are almost solidly opposed to it, while in Nemaha county they say they are going to send a solid delegation to Norfolk the 21st to vote for Judge Robinson (a Democratic district judge of Madison) or our nominee for Congress. I ask the friends of the reform movement in this district if this meets with their approval, and if they must nominate a lawyer to represent a farming district. If they have no lawyers in their own party able to cope with the two by four slysters that now misrepresent the people of Nebraska in Congress from the Third district. It strikes me that with over two-thirds of Congress made up from the profession of lawyers, that it is about time we send some other class of men to Congress. They certainly could do no worse than the present Congress has done. I do not wish to criticize or find fault with those who are conscientious in this matter, but it does seem to me that a move of this kind (while it may be the means of electing Judge Robinson to Congress) will in the end be the means of destroying all that we have been working for the past few years. Let me say to the friends of the Third that if you will not get discouraged in well doing that the very men you propose fusing with will be voting our ticket next November. Why? Simply because we are the only political party that is a unit for free coinage, and they will have to come to us to get what they want both Democrats and Republicans. But the moment you fuse with the Democrats you drive out thousands of voters who have been Republicans who will not swallow anything which favors Democracy, and again there are those (and they are the very bulwark of the party, the men who stood almost alone for reform when those who are now talking fusion were whooping it up for the old parties) who declare that if a Democrat is nominated by the Populists they will nominate a straight Populist by petition, as they will not support a Republican or Democrat.

This is the situation today in the Third congressional district, and I know that it may be accused of mercenary motives in opposing this fusion, by those who

honestly, or otherwise, believe that it is the only way to success, as my name has been mentioned as a candidate for Congress in this district, and this alone has kept me from raising a note of warning to the true and the tried of this district. But after watching the progress of this move for the last three months, and as the convention is almost here and no one seems willing to come out openly and oppose it I have concluded that to longer remain silent for fear of being criticised, would be both treason and cowardice, and I never was much of a man to sacrifice principle for policy. I have no fear of being misjudged by those who know me, as I never sought the nomination for any office and do not intend to begin this fall at Norfolk. I believe I have all I can attend to right here in Merrick county, and ask no nomination for any convention. But I say to all the friends of the Third district that if I am permitted to attend the Norfolk convention the 21st of August, that I shall exert every energy I possess to defeat any fusion, and to accomplish the nomination of a straight Populist, even though I stand alone in so doing. It will not be the first time that I have espoused an unpopular cause, if it be unpopular. I see the Populist party of this district drifting towards the breakers of disaster, disruption and shipwreck. For the party name I care but little; but for the principles of a people's government as enunciated in our platforms of the past I am willing to sacrifice all I possess to see them enacted into law. But I would prefer defeat for the present with victory for the future, to a so-called victory which in the end only means defeat and disaster and a return to absolute Republican rule, with no hope for the future but to begin again at the bottom. No, brother Populists, don't listen to the siren song of the fusionists. Fusion is the Trojan horse which once admitted within our ranks will divide and destroy us.

Yours for the right  
PORTER OF MERRICK.

### Great Demand for Direct Legislation

HOLDREGE, Neb., July 27, 1894.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

I have been carefully reading all letters in your paper on the question of "what shall the platform be," and I am gratified to see that so many of your correspondents favor the idea of making a demand for direct legislation one of the leading planks of the platform. I have thought this matter over for a long time and I have come to the conclusion that we made a mistake in 1890 and 1892 when we paid so little attention in our platform to that question. I believe if we had in 1890 demanded direct legislation and very little else, we could by this time have succeeded under that system in having most of our state demands made the law of the state. I say this because I am satisfied that the majority of the citizens of the state favor most of our demands, and the reason they did not vote for them was because of their "party."

Now, I have canvassed the Independent voters of this county lately and I find that all who have given the matter any thought, agree that our next state platform should contain a plain demand for direct legislation first, and further than that the platform should contain nothing to antagonize a single voter in the state. Let our candidates be pledged to make direct legislation the fundamental law of the state and let them further be pledged to oppose the enactment of any more important legislation and to strictly enforce the laws now on the statute books.

The promulgation of a platform such as is here proposed ought to satisfy the people that we want the people to rule regardless of parties. Let Bro. Wolfe get his head together and draw up a platform on the general plan here outlined and submit it to all concerned.

Yours truly,  
L. C. HENCK.

### W. H. Rossetter's Opinion.

VALPARAISO, Neb., July 27, 1894.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

I will offer some suggestions in regard to our platform. We need a platform as a guide or test in order to find out the opinions or principles of the men we expect to place at the head of our party. I see quite a number who express their opinion of our platform think it is useless or unnecessary, that we need men

who will use proper judgment in the administration of the affairs of our state and nation "John, Daniel and Beante," the great "I am" of the Republican party, Bill McKinley, also the great fat dragon, who now disgraces our presidential chair, the immortal Grover, all these men claim to use their "better" judgment in the administration of the affairs of the nation and on the no platform principle, we could not convict them of selling out, or going back on their constituents. If complained of their answer would be, we used our "better judgment," and if you don't like it, you must not complain of an honest difference in opinions.

Let's have a platform.

I. Put in as few words in each plank as possible and make your meaning understood.

II. Use as simple language as the circumstances will allow, if your platform is intended for the majority of your readers to study; for instance, the Initiative and Referendum. If I understand the meaning of these words it is a principle or a means which gives to the majority of the voters of the state a right to suggest a change in the laws which govern us, and in case the legislators object or refuse to make such changes, we, as a people, can by request of a certain per cent of the voters, compel them to adopt these changes. I believe this would be a proper way to make all laws, but I also believe it is too far ahead of the people. We, who are just learning our A B C's in politics can't understand such things, therefore I say, leave it out of the platform for the present.

III. "Equal Suffrage" You will find very few women in our state that would for a cigar or a glass of beer, a smile and a nod from royalty, or a promise of some little office like "deputy" road overseer, vote against their own and children's interests, as many men do now. I suggest, put that plank in, I'll stop now. Don't crowd out any good article to make room for this.

WM. H. ROSSITES.

### Mr. Maiben Calls for the Referendum

PALMYRA, Neb., July 23, 1894.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

In your issue of the 19th July you request your readers to give their views on our platform, and any other reforms we may have to suggest. Allow me briefly to give my views on an important matter, and it is simply this, that all friends of our country, be they Democrats, Republicans, Prohibitionists or Populists, demand unanimously at their primaries and of the several members of Congress that we, the people, shall have the Referendum incorporated into our system of Democratic Republicanism; for if we do not soon have this carried out in its entirety we will lose the force of Lincoln's famous aphorism delivered at Gettysburg: "That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people and for the people; shall not perish from the earth." And for the people to say what these laws and statutes that are to govern us shall be, instead of allowing a venal court, be it supreme or local, shall so decide. It is needless for me to discuss the merits of this most fundamental principle in legislation, for its very end, animus and trend is carrying into execution Lincoln's noble and comprehensive idea. And this is all in a line with that other great aphorism of this immortal patriot, "You can fool a part of the people all the time, and you can fool all the people for a short time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." This would clearly indicate that Lincoln had an abiding faith in the common people. So let us give back to these people all supreme power by saying, let us know what you think of this or that law. There is not one man in 10,000 knows one-fourth part of the laws on our statute books, yet we must not plead ignorance at the bar of judgment.

Yours for equity and justice,  
JOHN S. MAIBEN.

### Sixteen Reasons For Not Supporting Fusion

Lincoln, Neb., July 27, 1894.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

In your issue of the 19th July you request your readers to give their views on our platform, and any other reforms we may have to suggest. Allow me briefly to give my views on an important matter, and it is simply this, that all friends of our country, be they Democrats, Republicans, Prohibitionists or Populists, demand unanimously at their primaries and of the several members of Congress that we, the people, shall have the Referendum incorporated into our system of Democratic Republicanism; for if we do not soon have this carried out in its entirety we will lose the force of Lincoln's famous aphorism delivered at Gettysburg: "That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people and for the people; shall not perish from the earth." And for the people to say what these laws and statutes that are to govern us shall be, instead of allowing a venal court, be it supreme or local, shall so decide. It is needless for me to discuss the merits of this most fundamental principle in legislation, for its very end, animus and trend is carrying into execution Lincoln's noble and comprehensive idea. And this is all in a line with that other great aphorism of this immortal patriot, "You can fool a part of the people all the time, and you can fool all the people for a short time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." This would clearly indicate that Lincoln had an abiding faith in the common people. So let us give back to these people all supreme power by saying, let us know what you think of this or that law. There is not one man in 10,000 knows one-fourth part of the laws on our statute books, yet we must not plead ignorance at the bar of judgment.

## OUR REPRESENTATIVES

The Populist Party Should Offer No Rewards for Joining It.

IT IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY MAN.

Mr. Kem Writes on the Present Vital Question of Irrigation—Let the Dry Districts Roll in Petitions.

Of Great Interest to Western People.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 23, 1894.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

MY DEAR SIR:—In your paper of July 19th I notice that you call attention to the article which Senator Allen, Hon. O. M. Kem and I sent to the Omaha World-Herald and to the Bee.

Under ordinary circumstances your suggestion that it should have been sent to the Populist papers is pertinent, I write to assure you that this was our intention, however we were loath to give this article to the public; and held it back so long that on learning that some of our people were expecting to hear from us on that point, we concluded that it would reach all sooner if given to the daily press at once. The article was mailed to you by Hon. O. M. Kem on the same day that it was sent by telegram to the World-Herald and Bee; it had been agreed by us to send this article to THE WEALTH MAKERS, and it was only when we deemed it best that our statements should reach the people of Nebraska at once that we changed our minds and gave it to the public in the speediest manner. I assure you that it was only our duty to the Populist party of our state which compelled us to speak that we made up our minds to speak so plainly that no one that read our statement could any longer be in doubt.

I have never allowed myself to engage in any factional fights or newspaper controversies, nor have I ever been found at any state, congressional or county convention as a lobbyist. I believe that the present deplorable condition of the two old parties in the U. S. is largely the result of an over dose of political bossism. I believe that the Populist party and its principles are greater and grander than the political fortune of any man, whether he be a Democrat or a Populist. I may be pardoned for saying that I think it would be a mistake for our party to hold out to any man the inducement of a political position as a reward for joining it.

If there is any man in Nebraska or outside of it so great and wise that we cannot exist as a party without him it is good evidence of the fact that we ought to disband; happily however the Populist party is in no such condition.

I have noticed a tendency on the part of some of our Populist papers to praise up a certain man, outside of our party, and then in a few weeks afterwards they display a desire to pull the same individual down. For Mr. Bryan I entertain the greatest respect; I regard him as a pure, honorable, upright and courageous advocate of the rights of the common people as against the classes. I see no reason why I should in any way become a party to try to tarnish his fame, neither do I see any reason for the Populists to disband simply because he chooses to set with some other party, whose platform he seems to prefer and whose action he overlooks.

No party ever has or ever will be able to make a platform that will suit every individual member of the organization; and to those who criticize our platform so freely, I would respectfully suggest that a close inspection of the platform of their party might reveal the fact that a portion of their time could be profitably spent in criticizing their own platform.

The great variety which we find in nature is not confined to the vegetable kingdom; so two men are alike any more than two blades of grass are alike; therefore I am not disposed to abuse or quarrel with a man if he should differ from me. The Populist party was not ordered to grow out of the occasion which upset legislation had upon our people, and it will not exist until those wrongs are removed which the American people are suffering from these unjust burdens.

Let my duty here may prevent me from attending any of the coming Populist conventions, I desire to say in the columns of your paper, that when our convention assemblies, I trust the delegates will meet, not as hostile factions, fighting for or against any man, but that they will gather together as a band of earnest men resolved to nominate a ticket composed of the best and ablest men of our state. In conclusion I say that when the Populist conventions meet and select their tickets I expect to be found in my place fighting with whatever strength I possess, for the election of its candidates. This is my duty as I understand it and that duty will be faithfully done.

I have no desire to dictate to others, neither have I any use for self constituted political bosses. Men like Dr. McCune and N. A. Dunning may sell our party if they can, but I for one will object to the delivery of the goods.

W. A. MCKEIGHAN.

### Congressman Kem on Irrigation.

WASHINGTON, July 23, 1894.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

During the last three months I have received letters, petitions, and resolutions, from different parts of the 6th district relative to irrigation in the west and the attitude of congress thereto. Realizing as I long have, that this is one of the greatest questions or problems our people are confronted with, I desire to make a brief statement to the people of Nebraska through the columns of your paper, and hope western papers will copy.

I have not been indifferent to the magnitude and necessity of irrigation in Nebraska at any time while a member of congress, and have from time to time endeavored to get the western members interested sufficiently, so that by united effort upon our part might induce congress to take some action in the matter. But it was impossible, seemingly, to arouse any interest in the matter, until recently the logic of events in the way of recurring continued drought throughout the whole west has compelled a few western members to realize that we as western people are face to face with one of the greatest problems we have yet faced, and a few of us for the last two months have been endeavoring earnestly to get a little time in which to present the matter to congress and show the urgent necessity of prompt action by the national government.

I can not of course enter into a full discussion of the subject now, but shall do so before congress just as soon as I can secure time. When that will be I do not know, for the powers that be do not seem disposed at present to grant us any time; but we shall keep persistently after them till we do get a hearing, sooner or later.

I have always maintained, as those will remember who have heard me express an opinion, that the government should take charge of the matter, and the more I study the question and better realize the magnitude and importance of the undertaking, the more firmly am I convinced that it is the only power which can successfully cope with it and secure to all citizens their just and equal rights. My views in this matter are in conformity with some remarks I made on the floor of the house March 9th last, relative to lighting the government buildings and grounds here, which you were kind enough to publish.

Hon. Willis Sweet of Idaho has a bill pending which covers the matter partly but it applies to Government lands only. Also Carey's bill of the Senate, which has just passed that body, is of the same nature. Neither of these bills if they became the law would at all meet the exigencies of the case, for, if all of the government lands now remaining were under irrigation it would only be an infinitesimal part of the whole that needs irrigation. Our own state it would not touch. The government must deal with it as a great whole, regardless of state lines.

Right here I desire to call attention to an error some of our people seem to have fallen into, viz., that the government can not nor will not consider any proposition to establish a system of irrigation in any one particular locality alone, such as the Platte Valley, Loup Valley, or any other one valley; but if undertaken at all it must, as I have remarked, be considered as a whole, embracing seventeen states and territories

and covering an area of about one half of the United States.

The first step to be taken is to induce congress to engage in the undertaking. But when our people see as I do that there is no question congress is so ignorant of as that of irrigation and its necessity, they will also see this first step is a very difficult one and must take time to consummate. Ignorance and prejudice give way very slowly, and both must be removed before this first step is taken, but when once taken the battle is more than half won. So long as I am a member of this body I shall push this matter along these lines, and when the work is begun let it be first accomplished in the more thickly settled portions of the arid region. Now I trust no one will say it can't be done, for it can and will be. If the entire people will act in unison, if the petitions embracing the entire population of the country west of the 97th meridian were sent here, asking for this, you would see some results very soon. But an isolated petition from scattered points here and there will amount to but little. The people must act in unison and let congress know that not just a few of them, but all of the people, regardless of their political affiliations, are demanding it. If the western people will do this, in my opinion their representatives will not only be heard, but heeded. As for me I shall fight it out along the line of government establishment and control, so long as I am honored with a seat in this body.

Very respectfully,  
O. M. KEM.

### A Letter From Fred Jewell.

PLATTE CENTER, Neb., July 17, '94.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

I now think it a proper time to seriously consider our best timber in sight for state office, and while it has certainly brought a feeling of pleasure to many an honest man and hard worker in the People's cause to know that his friends consider him worthy of nomination to offices of trust; yet in view of the vast number of names suggested I now consider it the duty of each honest worker whose name has been mentioned and who has no aspiration to become a candidate, to come out in your columns with a statement that such is the case, in order to let opinions center upon those who are willing to accept.

Therefore while thanking my friends who were responsible for mentioning my name for secretary of state I would state that I am not a candidate and could not accept a nomination.

I would however call your attention to the name of Warwick Saunders of Columbus, who has been suggested for this nomination, and would heartily recommend his support. He is one of the Populist editors who have sacrificed much to uphold the people's cause, and a man with the ability to intelligently fill the office. And located as he is in the Democratic stronghold of northeast Nebraska would be able to bring us many votes that we have not had in the past.

Yours for union of strength,  
FRED JEWELL.

### Words of Warm Commendation.

PILGER, Neb., July 21, '94.

DEAR BRO. GIBSON:—I look with wonder and astonishment at the way you have handled your paper since these turbulent times commenced. That we appreciate it does not express our real sentiments. I can remember when, years ago, I read some of Swedenborg's works. I wondered if ever there would be a time in my short span of life that his prophetic words would come true. I now believe that the new heaven and new earth are but a little ways ahead. "Brotherhood of man" through the divine man, Christ, our Creator and Savior.

How many are finding your paper a truer source of life than the creeds of churches I do not know, but I do know it fearlessly strikes the right chord every time.

W. H. WOODRUFF.

### Populists Rally.

MAISON CITY, Neb., July 29.—[Special]

—Yesterday at Round Grove, five miles east of this place, about 5,000 Populists assembled for a rally. Rev. J. M. Snyder opened the exercises with a thirty minute talk, and was followed by Judge Holcomb, who spoke for one hour. Two roasted oxen had been prepared and were served. After dinner Hon. W. L. Greene of Kearney spoke