

NOT MUCH BUSINESS.

Very Dull Session of the Illinois Legislature Friday.

Springfield, Ill., March 18.—The session of the senate yesterday was perfectly perfunctory. The senators all went home Thursday night. The house was in session a few minutes, but beyond the introduction of a lot of bills nothing was done.

Mr. Mauritzson—Amending the law in relation to evidence and depositions in civil cases, provided that no person would, if a party thereto, be incompetent to testify shall become competent by any assignment or release of his claim, if it shall appear that such assignment or release was made for the purpose of rendering such person a competent witness.

Hope Abandoned.

Tangier, Morocco, March 18.—All hope of finding the Spanish warship Reina Regente safe has been abandoned. Fear has changed to conviction that it foundered in the frightful storm of Sunday and Monday and that all of the 420 persons on board have perished.

Narrow Escape from a Wreck.

Elkhart, Ind., March 18.—Lake Shore & Michigan Southern vestibule limited passenger train No. 15 had a close call from a wreck while coming into this city yesterday. The train was running fast along a high embankment when the engine struck a broken rail and jumped the track.

Uncle Sam May Try to Purchase Cuba.

Washington, March 18.—Disturbances in Cuba have caused a renewal of the talk about the purchase of that island by the United States, and a proposition will in all probability be presented to the next congress.

To Find New Homes in Georgia.

Atlanta, Ga., March 18.—Ex-Gov. W. J. Northern said yesterday: "Yes, it is true I have in hand an enterprise to locate veterans from the north on Georgia farms, but it has not yet materialized well enough for me to give you the details."

Now a Window Glass Trust.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 18.—When the leading window glass manufacturers met here March 20 it is thought of the country will be formed. Prices will be regulated to meet the foreign standard.

Trying Hard to Indict Byrnes.

New York, March 18.—It is probable the grand jury will report next Monday. By that time Assistant Attorney Lindsay will have determined whether or not it is possible for him to indict Supt. Byrnes.

Milwaukee Almshouse Cases.

Milwaukee, Wis., March 18.—The trial of the almshouse conspiracy case was resumed in the Municipal court yesterday. Assistant District Attorney Bennett presented the state's case and August Juetner, the county clerk, consumed the rest of the day reading from the records of the county board all that related to the contract.

Settlers Going to British Columbia.

Ablene, Kan., March 18.—The colony of northern central Kansas emigrants which went to Edmonton, in the province of Alberta, British Columbia, a year ago, is to be followed in a few days by another large party from Concordia, Clyde, Greenleaf and other towns in that section.

May Close State Institutions.

Minneapolis, Minn., March 18.—It is rumored that Gov. Allen of North Dakota will refuse to sign the appropriation bill, and that most of the state institutions will be compelled to close up for the next two years.

Where They Will Discuss Peace.

St. Petersburg, March 18.—Information from a good source is to the effect that the peace negotiations between China and Japan will take place at Shimoneski, on the southern point of the island of Hondo.

Home Protection Party.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 18.—The name for the new political party as finally decided is the "home protection party." Before adjournment a resolution was passed calling for all kinds of money to be on a party, but that the government shall issue it direct to the people instead of to the banks.

Chairman, Thom Slightly Improved.

Madison, Wis., March 18.—Chairman Thom is reported slightly better. He is sleeping and has taken some nourishment. No hope is entertained, however, of his ultimate recovery.

SPAIN IS VERY SLOW.

SPECULATION AS TO FORM OF HER APOLOGY.

Cuban Rebels Said to Be Gaining—Baron Fava's Insult May Lead to Trouble with Italy—Secretary Uhl Is Easy.

Washington, March 18.—In the event of Spain's apologizing for the Alliance affair, the question has arisen as to what form the apology will take. In diplomatic usage an expression of regret is often accompanied by an offer to salute the flag of the country to which an international discourtesy has been given.

FAVA'S ACT AN INSULT.

Diplomatic Washington Aghast at the Ambassador's Course.

Washington, March 18.—In an extended article on the lynching of Italian subjects in Colorado, the Post this morning says: "The action of the representatives of the Italian government here in relation to the Colorado massacre has been the subject of lively gossip in diplomatic circles and at the Metropolitan club, where the diplomats and the army and navy officers congregated."

REBELS GAIN GOOD POINTS.

It is Said They Are Rapidly Advancing in Cuba.

thentic advices direct state that the revolution is progressing most favorably. Exact information as to the various movements cannot be readily obtained, owing to government censorship over telegraphic communications. This was foreseen and provided for. Each section of the revolutionary party has been operating independently so far. Each fights on his own account, thus distracting the Spanish forces and leaving them in perpetual doubt as to where and when the next blow will be struck.

PEOPLE'S PLATFORM.

Adopted by the Convention at Omaha Nebraska, July 4, 1892.

Assembled upon the one hundred and sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the People's Party of America, in their first national convention, invoking upon their action the blessings of Almighty God, puts forth in the name, and on behalf of the people of the country, the following preamble and declaration of principles:

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized; most of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled; public opinion silenced; business prostrated; our homes covered with mortgages; labor impoverished; and the land concentrating in the hands of the capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hireling army, unrecognized by our law, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the possessors of these in turn despise the republic and endanger liberty.

The national power is to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; a vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been landed into gold-bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demoted to add to the purchasing power of gold, by decreasing the value of all forms of property, as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise, and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization, or the establishment of an absolute despotism. We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon the suffering people. We charge that the controlling influence dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop, without serious effort to prevent or restrain them.

Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff, so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, the demoralization of silver, and the oppressions of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of Mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires. Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation, and filled with the spirit of the grand generation of men, who established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the Republic to the hands of "the plain people," with whose purpose it is identical with the purpose of the national constitution—"to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty ourselves and our posterity."

We declare that this republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation; that it cannot be pilned together by bayonets, that the civil war is over and that every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it; and that we must be in fact, as we are in name, one united brotherhood. Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world. Our annual agricultural production amount to billions of dollars in value, which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production; the existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange. The results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings, and the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that if given power we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation, in accordance with the terms of our platform.

We believe that the powers of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people, and the teachings of experience, shall justify; to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land.

While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions—important as they are—as secondary to the great issues now pressing for solution; and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depends; and we ask all men to first help us to determine whether we are to have a republic to administer, before we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered; believing that the forces of reform this day organized will never cease to move forward until every wrong is righted and equal privileges established for all the men and women of this country.

UNION OF THE PEOPLE.

First, That the union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated, shall be permanent and perpetual; may its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second, Wealth belongs to him who creates it; and every dollar taken from industry, without an equivalent, is robbery. "If any man will not work neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

Third, We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations

will either own the people or the people must own the railroads; and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing the railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be protected by civil service regulations of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible; issued by the general government only; a full legal tender for all debts public and private; and that without the use of banking corporations; a just equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent per annum, to be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

We demand a graduated income tax. We believe that the money of the country should be kept, as much as possible, in the hands of the people; and hence we demand that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and the facilitation of exchange.

TRANSPORTATION. Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity; the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity, for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interests of the people.

LANDS.

The land, including all natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes; and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were offered independent of the platform, and were adopted, as expressive of the sentiments of the convention:

Resolved, That we demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections, and pledge ourselves to secure to it every legal voter without federal intervention, through the adoption by the states of the unperverted Australian secret ballot system.

Resolved, That the revenue derived from a graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation now levied upon the domestic industries of this country.

Resolved, That we pledge our support to fair and liberal pensions to ex-military soldiers and sailors.

Resolved, That we condemn the fallacy of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world, and crowds out our wage-earners and we denounce the present ineffective law against contract labor, and demand the further restriction of undesirable immigration.

Resolved, That we cordially sympathize with the efforts of organized workmen to shorten the hours of labor and demand a rigid enforcement of the existing eight-hour law on government work, and ask that a penalty clause be added to said law.

Resolved, That we regard the maintenance of a large standing army of mercenaries, known as the Pinkerton system, as a menace to our liberties, and we demand its abolition, and we condemn the recent invasion of the Territory of Wyoming by the hired assassins of Plutocracy, assisted by Federal officers.

Resolved, That we commend to the thoughtful consideration of the people and the reform press, the legislative system known as the Initiative and Referendum.

Resolved, That we favor a constitutional provision limiting the office of a president and vice president to one term, and providing for the election of the senators by a direct vote of the people.

Resolved, That we oppose any subsidy or national aid to any private corporation for any purpose.

H. E. TAUBENECK, Chairman, Marshall, Illinois.

J. H. TURNER, Secretary, Georgia.

LAWRENCE McFARLAND, Secretary, New York.

M. C. RANKIN, Treasurer, Terre Haute, Indiana.

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