OUR NATIONAL PLATFORM.

The People's Party Platform Adopted at Omaha July 4, 1892.

Assembled upon the 116th 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 this country the following preamble and declaration of principles:

PREAMBLE.

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 capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages, a hireling standing army, unrecognized by our laws, 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. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires. The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders. A vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded 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 demonetized 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 industries. 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 quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon a suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop, without serious efforts 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 demonetization 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 which established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of "the plain people," with whom it originated.

We assert our purposes to be identical with the purposes of the national constitution: "To form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to 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 pinned 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, the united brotherhood of free men.

Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world; our annual agricultural productions 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 depend; 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 remedied, and equal rights and equal privileges securely established for all men and women of the country, therefore:

WE DECLARE

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 will not work, neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies 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 any or all railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under a civil service regulation 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.

PLATFORM.

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; that a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed two per cent. per annum, to be provided, as set forth in the subtreasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand the 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 moneys 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 to facilitate exchange.

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 transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All lands 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.

A Plea for Radicalism.

EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.—

Was there ever a time in the history of the world when those in control were more aggressively radical in shaping events to their selfish purposes than at the present time?

Think of Cleveland disobeying the silver purchase law, the Geary Law and the proposed illegal issue of bonds!

Think of the courts deciding that the Knights of Labor have no standing in court and cannot enjoin anyone, not even to prevent disobedience to law!

Then think of the courts at the demand of a corporation reducing the wages of the Knights and enjoining them to prevent a strike, thus preventing them from having any voice as to the amount of wages they are to receive! Think of the courts enjoining the Master Workman of the Knights to prevent him from going among the members of his order to talk his principles!

From these expressions of corporation radicalism on the part of the courts and executive it would seem the great common people have no rights the corporations are bound to respect.

Corporations rule the world. They keep in position Kings, Queens and Emperors. They set up presidents and obtain majorities in all law making bodies. They are aggressively radical in extending and maintaining their chartered privileges.

All laws for their benefit and prosperity are rigidly enforced; laws for their control remain a dead letter.

The great majority deny the right of the corporation to fence the whole world, enjoy all its blessings and enslave all its poplation. There are very few who aggressively and radically pit against the corporations, the natural, inalienable rights of the whole people.

In this country those opposing corporation craft, cunning and rule are in the Populist party, and with them are many conservatives.

With the expressed and implied desire of the corporations to crush with law or without law all opposition to their schemes of self-aggrandizement, how any one honestly oppesing them can be a conservative is a mystery to us.

To oppose corporation radicals with conservatism would end in abject slavery for the poor weak-kneed conservatives.

Could the radicals who organized the Republican party have been kept in the lead we would not today need another party. If the party had followed the lead of Thadeous Stevens the greenback would not have been crippled by the exception clause and one-third the expenses of the late war would have been saved. If Lincoln had served out his second term the contraction of the currency that caused the panic of 1873 would not have taken place. Could the old radical, Horace Greeley, have been nominated by his party in 1868 the currency bonds would never have been changed to coin bonds, with his veto he would have saved the country $600,000,000. Had he been elected in 1872 silver would not have been demonetized.

Before his death the martyred Lincoln saw his party had enthroned the corporations, and it broke the heart of the radical Horace Greeley to think his child, the Republican party, had become a conservative party controlled by banks and bondholders.

Could Jefferson and Jackson return to earth and behold the slavery and want of those they labored to make free and independent, could they see that their child, the Democratic party, had turned traitor to the people, turned traitor to its declarations and traditions, no doubt, if these men could, they would "sweat great drops of blood."

When we go to an independent gathering of any kind and hear men of talent entertainingly discourse on the beauties and winning qualities of the conservative leader, when we hear them talk of the unlimited strength a conservative platform would add to our party, we cannot help the thought that they ought to receive large pay from the corporations. Our prayer is, do not forgive them, for they know what they do and how to do it. Then we ask a kind Father never to permit the Independent party to come to the front with a lot of conservatives in the lead who would deny their master a dozen times before the cock has time to crow once.

No! No! the Populists must meet and defeat the radicalism of those who would enslave the people, and destroy the republic. They must destroy the unlimited taxing power of the railroads by providing for government ownership and operation at cost price to the people.

A postal savings bank in every postoffice to do a loan and discount business for the people at cost price, as advocated by the Populists, would take away from the banks and Wall street the power to start a financial crash any time, by simply refusing and drawing in loans.

The government must take charge of all coal lands and mines and furnish coal to the consumers at cost price. Government ownership and management of the railroads, banking and coal corporations would settle these great questions so they would not bother our posterity any more than chattel slavery troubles us.

Three-fourths of the people are in favor of these just measures, but are prevented from enacting them into law by the conservatives that control the old parties.

If the Populists accept any settlement of these great questions less radical they will disappoint the people and will utterly fail to maintain and secure to the people their natural, inalienable and just rights. CONSERVATIVE.

Do You Believe It?

"There is an evil under the sun and it is common among men: A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honor, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not the power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it; this is vanity, and it is an evil disease."—The Bible.

The question of today, the money question, is not a new one as the above quotation from the "son of David, King in Jerusalem" shows.

Solomon in the power of his wisdom looked through the ages yet to come and when he said "There is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jawteth as knives to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men, did he mean this generation?

It was not a poor man curious of his rich neighbor, whose language we have quoted. It was not a "calamity howler" wanting to empty the pockets of the rich that he might fill his own. These are the words of the greatest money king of the olden time, the wisest man the earth has ever known.

"This is vanity and it is an evil disease." How it has spread among the people! until today it is prevalent among the high and low. A cancerous disease polluting the heart of man, with poisonous germs of greed and selfishness, that grow, flourish and choks out the germs of liberty and justice.

"This is vanity." Our riches perish with us, not a single inventory, however delicate the parchment upon which it may be written, can the unclaimed soul bear across the border, to show what he possessed in this world and buy for him a desirable place in the better land. He must write with trembling fingers "my last will and testament," and leave it though the price of his soul, to be eaten by strangers.

The thought ploughs furrows in his brow, turns his hair gray and drives nail after nail in his coffin.

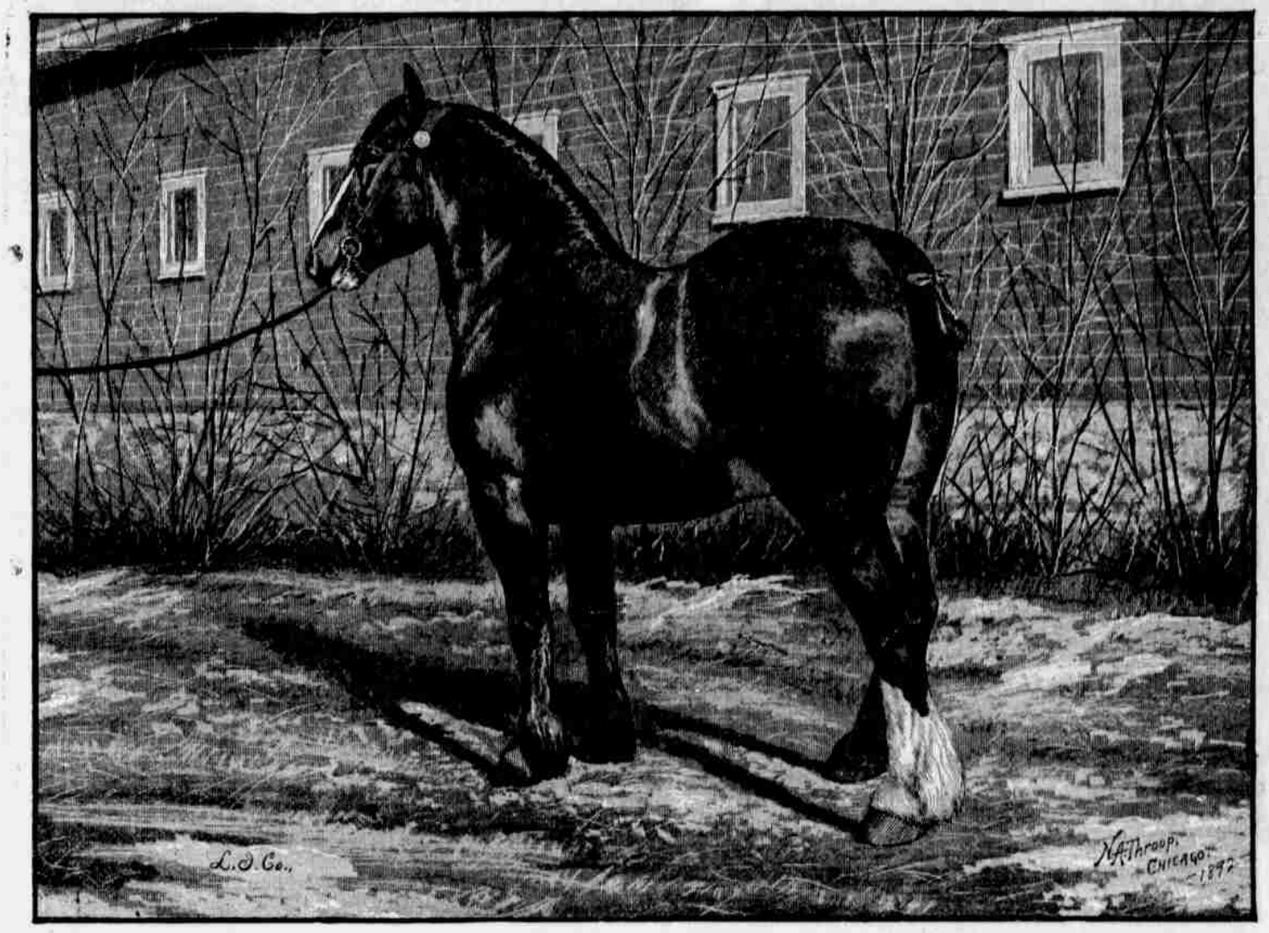
Care with a fiendish grin takes his throne in the poor throbbing heart and holds high carnival, until death lays a sympathizing hand upon him, saying: "Poor soul, your burden is too heavy; leave it all behind and come with me." He places the key in its mysterious lock and the freed soul bounds forward, free at last from the fetters of care, and his servants, selfishness and greed, to find that his inheritance was of the earth and that he had no treasure in heaven.

How long shall the disease spread and flourish? Is there no cure? Must we endure the tortures, the intense suffering occasioned by it? Must our children and our children's children inherit the malady?

Is any one seeking fame? Let him present a cure, a disinfectant to prevent its spread, and the coming generation will honor his name, and he shall be considered a blessing to earth.

WILL O' THE WISP.

Box Butte, Neb.



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A New Kind of Crop Rotation.

EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:

The agricultural papers keep telling the farmers they must rotate their crops and their stock if they want to be successful.

And they, the farmers, have rotated from wheat to corn, from corn to oats, from oats to barley, rye and flax; and last from horses to cattle, from cattle to hogs, from hogs to sheep. And some have been rotated out of house and home by the sheriff, while they were rotating around, trying to make an honest living for themselves and families. And they can't understand why it is that they don't succeed. They know that they have worked hard themselves and all members of their families have done the same. From early to late they have sold all they could sell, and what no one would buy they have used themselves. They have worn their old clothes until the rag men would not take them as a gift. They have denied themselves, their wives and children the clothes and shoes they ought to have had, and still they are worse off than before.

I tell you brother farmers you have not been rotating in the right field at the right time.

Now don't say you know better for the facts show for themselves, that you have not done so. I know that you are all anxious what my plan of rotation is, and whether it has been thoroughly tried and how far the farmers can make use of it. I will say it has been thoroughly tried in several of the western states and has given good results every time; and like all good things its usefulness increases the larger the number cultivating it. The plant is somewhat new but a vigorous grower. If the farmer will only do his part toward cultivating it himself and introduce it among his neighbors and friends it will double his income.

Now what must we rotate? In what field must we commence? We must commence in the political field and rotate all the old party politicians out of office, from road overseer to president of the United States; and keep an eye on all public officers and as soon as they show signs of running to monopoly rotate them out and put in honest men. And don't do it half and half; for remember the good book says: We must not put new wine in old casks as that would spoil the wine.

Nor must we patch an old garment with new cloth, as that would only make the rent larger in the end. Now brother farmers, let us all practice this kind of rotation and cultivate it with all our might. Let us rotate the rascals out.

Yours respectfully,

W. F. WASMUND.

Rushville, Neb.

What One Thinks of the Cheap Republican Papers.

EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:—

The other day I was looking over one of the papers belonging to the subsidized press and I noticed an advertisement headed in large capitals "Cheap Reading Matter." It went on to say, "Improvement in Machinery and Large Volume of Business Responsible."

Now that seems a nice dish of hash. But what we want to know is, is it true that there has been so much improvement in the way of printing during the last year that would reduce the cost so that reading matter has become so cheap? I do not believe it.

Again, are the newspaper men doing such a large volume of business these hard times that they are able to cut on prices so as to almost give their papers away to their subscribers? I do not believe that either. I do not believe that is the reason why the Lincoln State Journal is able to contract with the Chicago Weekly Inter Ocean, whereby it can give that paper and the Journal semi-weekly for one whole year for the small sum of $1.25 to its subscribers. Take the Railway Corporation and Shylock boodle from behind it and it could not do it. Samson would be shorn of his locks.

The whole subsidized press of today is nothing else than the paid tools of the Shylocks and Plutocrats to do their dirty, lying work for them, to misrepresent the truth, to throw chaff in the eyes of the people and so blind them that they cannot see the truth, and thus haul in a big net full of suckers next November.

But, thank God, the common people are getting their eyes opened day by day and week by week to the true nature of things.

History is only repeating itself. Before the late civil war, did not the slave holders try to push slavery on every border state? Did they not keep pushing till at last it terminated in war? Now what are our bondholders doing today? Are they not pushing bonds on the people to make them and their children, yea, children's children, to the third and fourth generations, bondmen and bondwomen? If the people do not arise in their might and say by their votes this state of things shall not be, so it will be.

May God help us to see before it is too late. For I, as an old man, do not want a repetition of 1860 to 1865, which must surely come if the people do not see where they are drifting.

WM. STEELE.

Hampton, Hamilton Co., Neb.

Where to Chalk Them.

Senator Allen of Nebraska says: "It is necessary to chalk a Democrat in order to tell him from a Republican."

Very well put. But you should chalk the Republican in front and the Democrat on his back for the Democrat has been advancing backward since the time of Thomas Jefferson, and has pretty nearly reached the aristocratic plutocratic platform of Alexander Hamilton. But the deserters from this crab-brigade are forming a regiment by themselves, filled with the old spirit of their party.—Ex.

We don't like to take Senator Allen out of the senate but we second his nomination for president made by THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT, and would suggest the name Watson for vice-president.—Tecumseh Republic.

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