

tion in greenbacks has more influence than the written desire of thousands of citizens." They will tell you that the majority in power would through its popular majority pass all laws which would be presented to them. We of this side can show you by example, the strongest proof, that out of nineteen measures submitted to the people of Switzerland but six were passed and Switzerland, having its parties divided on questions of religion, is more party-ridden than are we.

But seemingly the strongest argument that is used against us are that the people are not capable of governing themselves and that they are not capable of acting together. We believe that we have controverted this argument long since by the proof of our first two propositions. Further we will say that the argument is weak for experience has proven otherwise. The question must not be determined by what might happen, but by what has happened in lands where the scheme has been tried. It has worked well in state elections in our own country and in national questions in Switzerland, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Belgium and other places. We believe the doctrine sound.

We have shown you our Utopia. We have pictured to you the evils of a system that keeps the people far from the state. Foreign countries with the independence of their monarchs have lived; but in lands where the popular will could spread, the lands have not only lived, but thrived. We have shown you the entrance to a better and far more democratic home.

The art of government is not a hard one. Thomas Jefferson, perhaps the greatest of authorities on government, in his article on the rights of British America states another and a fundamental truth when he says: "The whole art of government is the art of being honest. The great principles of right and wrong are legible to every reader. To pursue them needs not the aid of many counsellors, but deal out to all an equal and impartial right." In another letter written to Benjamin Waring, he says: "The will of the people is the only legitimate foundation of any government." Upon the truths of these statements we willingly rest our case. To make the opinion of one man equal in electoral value to that of another should be our aim. The initiative and referendum will establish it and then, as McCauley so ably puts it:

"Then none was for a party, then all was for the state,  
No rich nor poor, but equal all within  
the city's gate."

WILLIAM W. BRIDE.

### Shall It be Done

Editor Independent: You are right. But the reorganizers are in control and will write the next national platform for the democratic party. The populists and Chicago platform adherents must stand together and go before the people as popocrats on a platform of principles embracing:

1. Liberty (anti-imperialism).
2. Anti-bank (government money).
3. Tariff revision (Iowa reform).
4. Home rule (county and city, Colorado).
5. Direct legislation (Illinois).
6. Income tax.
7. Government ownership of general utilities.

Avoid all catch planks or bid for labor votes. What say you to this? I would suggest a procedure as follows: Issue a call of kindred spirits in each state to meet at their capital city February 22, 1903, and there choose three men who shall attend a conference to take place the first Tuesday of March, 1903, at St. Louis.

This conference to formulate a declaration of principles. The three members from each state shall thereafter call a convention in their respective states to nominate a ticket and choose 12 delegates who shall attend a national convention to be held February 22, 1904.

Wall street will float the stock of the Mac-Lean-Gorman-Cleveland-Hill merger, with Coler as promoter. I would be pleased to hear from you. We owe something to the reform forces of our land, and a home for them when the split comes. Voting the opposition ticket is getting silly.

DR. R. H. RUMELIN.

36 Garfield Place, Cincinnati, O.

(What do the readers of The Independent say to this plan? In a general way The Independent is opposed to rushing off and forming a new party every whipstitch—but Doctor Rumelin's plan is attractive, there's no denying. With two people's parties, two or three socialist parties, and several different kinds of democratic parties, it does look as though something might be done. How does the outlined platform suit?—Ed. Ind.)

### A Stay-at-Home

Editor Independent: I am in a prospecting camp eight miles from post-office called Redington, which is only a ranch house where we get our mail matter 3 times a week—if we go for it. There are only four of us in the camp; two of the boys take the New York American, San Francisco Examiner, The Commoner and some magazines. My partner and I take the Rocky Mountain Daily News, The Commoner and The Independent. Our nearest neighbor is the Redington postmaster. I have only been out of camp once in the last thirteen months. I like The Independent very well; the only objectionable feature that I see is that it is too much opposed to socialism—which is the only system of government that does not give greed a foothold in one way or other; but I think that system can be more easily obtained by work gradually through populism. When I get time I would like to write an article touching the matter indirectly, yet conveying a favorable point.

I received many letters commenting favorably on the article, "Root of All Evil." Some of the persons were entire strangers to me. One of them living in a New England state wrote me that he wanted copies to distribute.

R. ROCKWELL.

Redington, Ariz.

(The Independent is opposed to socialism only to the extent that it includes the collective ownership of ALL the means of production, believing that after public ownership and operation of the railroads is achieved (including, of course, the telegraph and all such means of communication) the evils of the capitalist system will be minimized. But populists are not bitter in their opposition to socialism—something which cannot be said of the two principal factions in the socialist party toward each other. The Independent would be glad to receive the article Mr. Rockwell mentions.—Ed. Ind.)

### Hard to Dispute

Editor Independent: In commenting upon the results of the election you say that upon the republicans rests the responsibilities for financial conditions for the next two years; that within that time will be demonstrated the evils of republican financial policies and when it comes the republican party alone must bear the responsibility. We will no doubt have the demonstration, but I want to ask, Did you ever see the republican party in a hole but what they could find some crevice through which to crawl out? They were in a great hole in '96 and they found that the only way out was to slide out on populist planks and they got out all right. Several times during the present season they came very nearly slipping in again, but by imploring the bankers, etc., to save them they have dodged it in their artful way. You see it would not do to get into that hole just now as the ground is slippery and they might hurt themselves (politically), but a little later on they can lay the blame for getting into that hole to the democrats by saying, It is getting near presidential election and the people are hoarding their money for fear that the democrats will elect the president; then these same republicans that are now planning to have the Cleveland wing capture the democratic party will see to it that a man of Cleveland or Hill's stripe is nominated and elected; then they will push everybody but themselves into the hole and while they gather in the proceeds they will yell, We gave you prosperity and you were not satisfied; now take your medicine and when you get enough of democracy come back.

No, Mr. Editor, the republican party will never get in a hole but what they will get out in some way or other and lay the blame and responsibility on some one else.

L. H. SUTER.

Neligh, Neb.

### Corbin to Carlisle

Jay S. Corbin, the liberal democratic nominee for governor in New York, some days before election received a letter from Chairman Carlisle of the regular organization asking his support for the Coler ticket. Mr. Corbin replied as follows:

Gouverneur, Oct. 31, 1902.—John N. Carlisle, Chairman Democratic Executive Committee, Hoffman House, N. Y.—Dear Sir: I have your favor asking me to "do all in my power," etc., to elect Birdie Coler, the combination candidate of Thomas Platt and David B. Hill.

The other Corbins and myself represent an unbroken line of Jeffersonian democracy in this town for over 70 years and I see no reason at this late period in my life for departing from

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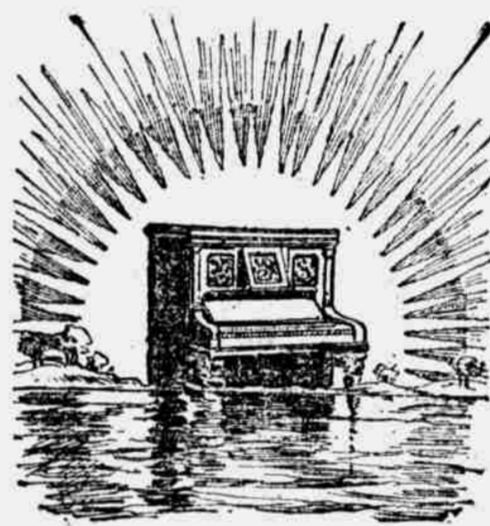
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the faith of the fathers.

Remembering the recreancy of yourself and Hill and Coler in 1896 and 1900, I rejoice at the certainty of your humiliating defeat on Tuesday next and I will "do all in my power" to aid that result.

I enclose a copy of the platform of the loyal democrats of the state and invite you to return to the party whose name you have stolen and whose principles and candidates you have long repudiated. Yours truly,

J. S. CORBIN.

Compared with the vote of 1898 (omitting decimals) the republican vote in St. Lawrence county fell off 5 per cent while the democratic vote fell off 10 per cent. In Gouverneur (town and village) the republican vote was exactly maintained while the democratic vote fell off 30 per cent. This result has been ascribed by some to the above letter.

J. H. Osborn, Hopkins, Mo.: I am about done trying, after being in this thing since Cooper's time. I am about ready to quit. The average puddin'-head's brains—what little he has—are in his belly.

Theodore A. Bishop, Southbury, Conn.: Enclosed find educational subscription for myself and friend. I once lived in Covington, Neb., and I like to hear from old Nebraska. Always intended to move back, but can't seem to bring it about as yet.

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