

**Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the populist executive committee was held at the Grand hotel, Lincoln, Tuesday, January 20. Among those present were Chairman Weber, Secretary Farris, Prof. H. E. Dawes of the First district, Prof. J. J. Points of the Second, Dr. Robert Damerell of the Fifth, and J. H. Edmisten of the Sixth, and Cliff Frank, at large. Senator Allen, member from the Third, was in the city attending supreme court, but was not present at the meeting.

The chairman and secretary presented a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures during the campaign, which was accepted and allowed. Other unfinished business matters were discussed, and then came up the question, What of the future?

Among those present, including several visitors, the consensus of opinion seemed to be that for the future independent party action is advisable. Every man present has been a supporter of co-operation between the democrats and populists, and if the influence of party action extended no farther than Nebraska would still favor a continuance of the pleasant relations which have hitherto existed between the two parties opposed to republicanism; but each one felt—with a single exception—that the party action this year will have its effect upon the national campaign next year. That the democratic party is irreconcilably divided upon questions of principle, and unless the people's party shall reunite, there is great possibility that both populists and Bryan democrats will, after the national conventions next year, find themselves partyless.

One or two resolutions, looking to independent party action, were introduced and debated, but it was finally decided to instruct the chairman and secretary to take a referendum vote of the entire state committee upon the following resolution:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this executive committee that the people's independent party of the state of Nebraska act independently politically of all other parties."

This is one of the resolutions presented for passage by the executive committee itself, but it was thought better to have the entire committee take a vote on it, there being a feeling of reluctance toward doing anything which might be considered an abrupt or untimely act. Unfortunately state and national politics are so closely united that it is difficult to have one party policy for state purposes and another for national, and while every man present wanted to do all in his power to re-elect Judge Sullivan this year, he felt that another year of co-operation would leave the people's independent party in this state without any standing as a party, and in no condition to enter the arena of national politics next year.

**The Legislature**

A large number of bills have been introduced, as might naturally be expected, but the legislature has done little of importance outside of passing the Sears resolution and one by Douglas of Rock.

The Sears resolution in effect stands as a rule of the house that no bill carrying an appropriation for a new public building shall be allowed to reach third reading until after the legislature shall have passed a revenue measure. Following upon that the Douglas resolution provides for the appointment of a committee to act in conjunction with a like committee of the senate and draft a revenue measure and introduce it not later than February 15. The house committee consists of Douglas of Rock, Warner of Lancaster, (who is chairman of the standing house committee on revenue), Sears of Burt, Thompson of Merrick, Wilson of Pawnee, Sweezy of Adams, and Loomis (fusionist) of Dodge.

The senate simply instructed its standing committee on revenue to act in conjunction with the house special committee. Then Howell of Douglas introduced a further resolution asking the supreme court to appoint members of the supreme court commission to assist in drafting the bill.

From surface indications one would judge that the majority is very much at sea in regard to what the new revenue bill should contain—so much so in fact that the chances are very good that whatever bill may be finally agreed upon, if any, by the committee will be voted down by the legislature. The railroad influence is at work to create the impression that farm property is relatively to railroad and city property scandalously undervalued and that whatever of additional taxation is imposed must be laid upon the back of the land owner and tiller of the soil. But the rural members of

the majority will not dare to vote for a bill which adds to the farmers' taxes and makes no change in the taxes on railroad and city property, and the next best thing will be to "let well enough alone." So the chances are good for no revenue legislation of any importance, except, perhaps, that the limit for general fund purposes may be raised.

This will be eminently satisfactory to the railroads.

**Howell's Resolution**

Senator Howell's resolution must take the course of a bill and be read in each house on three different days. It is as follows:

"Whereas, Adequate amendments to the revenue law of this state are urgent and universally demanded, and, "Whereas, The revenue committee of both the senate and house should have all the assistance in framing a satisfactory measure that it is possible to afford them; therefore, be it,

"Resolved, By the senate and house of representatives of the state of Nebraska in legislature assembled that the supreme court be requested to designate members of the supreme court commission to co-laborate with and assist the revenue committees of the house and senate to prepare and submit a comprehensive amendatory measure to the revenue laws of the state, to the house and senate, not later than February 10, 1903, said measure to include the following features, namely:

"A provision for county assessors in each county of the state, in lieu of precinct assessors.

"A provision for enlarged powers of the state and county boards of equalization so that assessments may be either raised or lowered in whole or in part.

"Further provision for the assessment and taxation of personal property necessary and municipalities to collect delinquent taxes."

The Independent is opposed to the first two provisions in this resolution. There is no merit in the change from precinct assessors to a county assessor with deputies. Pretty generally the same men would do the work any way. Equality in taxation does not necessarily mean equal assessments all over the state, but that in proportion to value the TAX should be no more on a dollar's worth of property in one county than in another. Equalization can best be done by varying the rate, and for that reason The Independent is opposed to allowing the state board to change the returns from any county; it should simply raise or lower the rate for state purposes.

Giving the state board the power to raise and lower valuations means to increase rather than decrease the present inequalities. It would result in an unsettled state of affairs. Equalization by varying the rate is much more simple and more easily applied, and, by allowing the county boards to assess the railroads, as suggested in another column, the rate for state purposes can be adjusted to a nicety, as nearly every county in the state has some railroad mileage.

Readers of The Independent should take advantage of the bargains offered by Fred Schmidt & Bro. in this week's issue. The merchandise is first class and the discount is exactly as represented during their great January clearing sale. Send an order by mail and The Independent will guarantee that you'll not regret it.

**SPECIAL MARKET LETTER**

FROM NYE & BUCHANAN CO., LIVE STOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS, SO. OMAHA, NEB.

Three days this week bring about 10,000 head of cattle and a reaction for the better, which we expected. We think this a good week to be here, as we are afraid next week will bring heavier receipts.

We quote beef steers \$4.75 to \$5.00, good \$4.25 to \$4.75, warmed-up \$3.75 to \$4.00; choice cows \$3.40 to \$4.00, fair \$2.85 to \$3.30, canners and cutters \$1.50 to \$2.50. Stockers and feeders in limited supply; good \$3.75 to \$4.25, fair \$3.00 to \$3.60. Bulls \$2.00 to \$3.75; veal \$4.00 to \$6.00.

Hog receipts are lighter than estimated and prices are higher. Range, \$6.35 to \$6.75.

Sheep market has been very satisfactory. We topped the market Thursday on lambs at \$5.75 and yearlings \$5.10. Few feeders.

Killers.  
Lambs ..... \$5.00-\$5.75  
Yearlings ..... 4.50- 5.10  
Wethers ..... 4.25- 4.75  
Ewes ..... 3.25- 4.25

**Union of Reform Forces**

Editor Independent: The union of reform forces is now the question of the hour in the political realm. We can unite the reform forces in 1904 and we must do it. There is no use clinging to the democratic hulk any longer. The rank and file of the democrats who followed the noble W. J. Bryan are honest and sincere, but the leaders never intended that he should win and they never will. It was the machine politicians that defeated him in 1896 and they are at the helm yet. The great mass of the republicans believed that W. J. Bryan was in the right. But they had no faith in the pretenses of the democratic leaders that controlled the political machinery and therefore stuck by their party. What the populists built up, the machine politicians of both parties have torn down.

There is one way to win and that is, invite the socialists, populists, single taxers, trade unionists, Knights of Labor, grangers and every trade of industrial reformers to send delegates to a national conference to be held at St. Louis in February, 1903, to formulate a platform and plans of organization and call a convention to nominate candidates for president and vice president, the same to be held prior to either the republican or democratic conventions. The early convention will head off any mongrel scheme that might be concocted to head off a reform ticket. If we adopt a platform of four or five planks which will not stir up the partisanship of the rank and file of the two parties we will make a showing that will sound the death knell to plutocracy. I would suggest the following platform:

1. Direct legislation through the initiative and referendum and imperative mandate.
2. The election of the interstate commerce commissioners by the people and the same to be empowered to fix maximum price on articles of commerce and maximum freight rates by petition the same as any other legal court. The same to be based upon 6 per cent on actual capital invested. Just wages for the laborer, and levying of a sinking fund to be used in purchasing any public utilities decided upon by a majority vote of the people.
3. Election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.
4. All money to be a full legal tender and to be issued without the intervention of national banks, and in sufficient volume to transact business on a practical cash basis.
5. All taxes to be levied upon property valuation and not upon the necessities of life.

Adopt the above platform and you will throw a bomb into the plutocratic camp such as they have never yet experienced. There can be no argument brought up against the initiative and referendum that will not react as a boomerang for those making it. The second proposition is the most effective and far-reaching plan outside of government ownership in overthrowing the trusts. If we advocate the government ownership at once of all trusts, they will overwhelm us with the plea of bankrupting the government. The above mentioned plan will not arouse the antagonism of the high tariff advocates like a pure and simple tariff plank would and on the other hand with the manufacturers of the world combining it would render any tariff reduction ineffective. The truth is that the trusts are willing that the people shall be blinded again as they were in 1892 by the Cleveland democracy. The publicity thus given our present commercial regime would do more towards government ownership than twenty years of agitation could do, and at the same time bring about higher wages and lower prices and transportation rates. Through the interstate commerce commission we could get the information that is now being suppressed in the coal strike investigation, and laying aside all past ideas on what we might deem as the Alpha and Omega of reform, it seems to me that any one can see that the aforesaid plan will surely bring more speedy and beneficial results than any tariff legislation or anti-trust criminal codes can possibly bring.

The violation of the commerce commission's decision would at once empower the president to appoint a receiver and thus there could be no corner on any commodity nor a famine as long as nature's resources held out. If the appointment of a receiver proves that the decision of the commission was too low it can soon be rectified. There is, however, no danger of any such decisions as the tendency has always been the other way. Let us get together and let us be imbued again with the spirit that prompted us in 1892 and 1894, and victory is ours. S. B. WEAVER. Logansport, Ind.

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Buffalo Hart, Ill. (Sangamon Co.)

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Fred K. Shepherd—Attorney

**NOTICE OF SALE.**

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an action in partition and by virtue of an order of sale therein made by Lincoln Frost, one of the judges of the District court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, on the 27th day of December, 1902, in an action pending in said court wherein Nora Clark is plaintiff and John W. Huff et al., are defendants, the undersigned referees will at 2 o'clock on Saturday, the 31st day of January, 1903, at the east door of the court house in Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, lot four of block sixty-three of Havelock, Lancaster county, Nebraska, including the buildings thereon, to be sold as one parcel.

F. L. SUMPTER,  
G. L. LAWS,  
NIELS JOHNSON.