

GOVERNOR POYNTER'S LETTER

The communication from Former Governor Poynter, published on our first page last week, has called forth considerable comment from the politicians. Some are inclined to criticize him for his position because he was elected governor in 1898 by democratic and populist votes, the candidate of both parties. But it is manifestly unjust to say that because he was the standard-bearer of the combined forces at one time he is forever precluded from expressing an opinion as to the future policy of his own party.

Thousands of western populists, and especially in Nebraska, supported the cause of co-operation or "fusion" because they had implicit faith in the honesty and sincerity of Mr. Bryan, yet many of them knew that such co-operation meant populist party disintegration. They have still the same admiration for and faith in Mr. Bryan—but they are by no means sure that his party will remain true to its principles enunciated in '96 and 1900. Further, they feel that if the democratic party is to retain its progressive element, it must itself progress. Mere platitudes about "control" of railroads, for example, will no longer satisfy the man who desires public ownership.

What the democratic party will do next year no man can tell. The Bryan element may control—and if so, none will rejoice more than the populists, even though it means a loss of party strength to them; and in many states a virtual wiping out of the party. For populists place principles above party or men.

But the Cleveland wing may control—and at this time the indications point strongly to this, although much may be done to change things in a year. And if the Cleveland wing controls, it means that the populists must have, and will have, a national ticket in the field.

The populist party organization, outside of Nebraska and Kansas, is practically a "dis"-organization. And this has been caused by co-operation or "fusion." Sensible populists are not complaining about it—they simply recognize it as a fact, the result of their own deliberate act, done knowingly.

But they are populists yet, regardless of lack of party machinery, and do not purpose to help the eastern plutocratic wing of democracy. Hence, on the eve of a presidential campaign they begin to ask, "Where are we at?" They expect to be ready for battle next year. And Governor Poynter voices the sentiment of thousands who are not quarreling over the past, but are simply looking to the future.

Here in Nebraska it seems incumbent upon the populists to meet in convention and nominate Judge Sullivan and Regents von Forell and Kenower. These gentlemen have good records and deserve re-election regardless of party affiliation. But there is no need of a "two-ringed" convention to do this. No need of an all-night session "getting together," if the democrats, when they meet in convention, feel that the populist nominees are the proper ones, they can indorse the populist ticket.

The campaign will doubtless be a quiet one. Following republican precedent our fusion judges have become too "dignified" to go on the stump; and this mantle of dignity has been stretched to cover their clerks who, under the resounding title of "commissioners of the supreme court," ape the manners of the real judiciary. Hence, laymen must do what little talking is done—and there really isn't much to do unless we anticipate next year's campaign and refight the battles for equitable taxation.

Anti-imperialists who are advocates of a protective tariff are inconsistent. A protective tariff, no matter what its advocates may say to fool the masses, has no other purpose than to build

up manufactories. When these have been built up—as is the case in the United States today—then comes the struggle for foreign trade. The "home market theory" which worked all right while they were being built up, now no longer suffices. The world must be conquered. And to do it by fair means or foul, makes no difference to the greedy heads of these tariff-protected institutions. The whole Philippine infamy was at bottom caused by avaricious manufacturers.

The single taxers told their story in the Henry George Edition. The socialists may tell theirs in the Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

"BRIGHT EYES"

The death of Mrs. Tibbles last week was a great shock to the old-time populists who in the early nineties read her intensely interesting articles in the Nonconformist and many other reform papers and magazines. For some years of late she devoted most her time to painting and seldom appeared in print—but the populists of the old guard remember her powerful attacks on plutocracy, and they mourn her loss.

Addison E. Sheldon of the Nebraska State Historical society, one of Mrs. Tibbles' warmest friends, and best equipped to write on the subject, has promised The Independent a biographical sketch for publication in the near future.

The Lincoln Evening News of May 29 contained the following:

The death of Mrs. T. H. Tibbles, formerly of this city, who died at her home in Bancroft last Tuesday night, will interest many people throughout the state, and the fact that Mrs. Tibbles was an Indian girl commonly known as "Bright Eyes" will increase it. Mrs. Tibbles had been in ill health for over a year, and died of peritonitis. Her husband is editor of the Nebraska Independent in this city, and until a year ago they resided here. They moved to Bancroft in the hope that the country air would improve the health of "Bright Eyes."

In private life she was known as Susette La Flesche. She was the daughter of a Ponca chief of the same name. She might have passed for a beautiful Indian woman anywhere, although her features were not as prominent as the features of most Indians. She was both an artist and a story writer. Some of her stories related to her race, others were fiction, but of whatever kind, they were recognized by the eastern magazines and she received compensation for them. Bright Eyes was highly educated, first attending a Presbyterian mission school. One of her teachers became much interested in her welfare, and although she returned to her home in the east she always managed to keep in touch with her bright young Indian pupil. She succeeded in getting a family of well-to-do people interested in her education, and they sent her to a school noted for its thoroughness. At the same school were the children of Fred Grant and the grand children of Ulysses S. Grant. Her progress was rapid and on one occasion she was called upon to teach the class in which these children recited, an unusual honor for an Indian girl. She was about forty-five years old at the time of her death and had traveled through the whole of the United States and in Europe. A souvenir album which she had contained signatures and autograph sketches of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry W. Longfellow, Wendell Phillips, many senators of the United States, the governors of a number of eastern states and many other prominent men. While in Europe she met many of the nobility and was well received wherever she went. Bright Eyes had traveled with her brother and father about the country under the charge of Mr. Tibbles when he was agitating the famous Indian rights case, which was brought up in federal court in Omaha a number of years ago by Bishop

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SEND IN YOUR ORDERS.

HAYDEN BROS.' WHOLESALE SUPPLY HOUSE, OMAHA.

Clarkson, John L. Webster, J. W. Savage and Rev. W. J. Harsha, and which established the status of the Indians and brought them back to Nebraska from Indian territory where the tribe was dying off. Mr. Tibbles married her afterwards and it is said they were well mated. Some time after the education of Bright Eyes her father accumulated quite a sum of money, amounting to \$20,000, from his mercantile business and upon the advice of an attorney loaned about half of it to a merchant. Under an old law which existed at that time an Indian could neither sue nor be sued and when the merchant refused to pay it back the confiding red man found he could not recover, since there was no legal remedy for such a case.

During the early life of Bright Eyes her father was very poor, however. Two sisters were educated through her efforts. They are now married and still live in Bancroft. One is Mrs. Picott, who married a half blood, and the other one is Mrs. Diddock, the wife of a white man.

Bright Eyes also helped her brother Francis La Flesche, now of Washington, through school. Mr. La Flesche has written a number of books, most of them being Indian stories for children. All the relatives of Bright Eyes who live in Bancroft are well to do and highly respected. Bright Eyes, when in this city, mingled with the best white people, and was considered their equal on every occasion, and her death is the closing chapter of an interesting, uplifting and beautiful life.

Mr. Tibbles will return to Lincoln and make his home here. Members of The Independent staff, his associates, have just returned from the obsequies at Bancroft.

The materialistic conception of history—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

SINGLE TAX CRITICISMS

Next week The Independent will devote some space to criticisms of the single tax, as presented in our Henry George Edition of May 14. To date the communications are not numerous, but one or two bring out some strong points, worthy of discussion.

Contributions intended for this edition should be mailed at once.

FREIGHT RATES

Commenting on the recent merger of the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad with the Rock Island, The Iowa State Register believes that the "fears" entertained by ex-Attorney General Griggs "have been dissipated." That is, that the Northern Securities decision would prevent any further consolidation and undo what has been done. Continuing, The State Register says:

An attempt to force the roads into constant "acute" competition is therefore an attempt to force them to conduct their business in an impracticable manner. Provisions of law which forbid discriminating rates and require "acute" competition are inconsistent. Discrimination is a necessary feature of competition. Discrimination consists in giving one man a better rate than another and competition involves that very thing.

The natural recourse of railway owners in this dilemma was to consolidation. It was the only thing they could do, and the public has now to consider how to best deal with a new and permanent situation. The Elkins law is an attempt to compel the roads to treat all shippers alike, to compel uniform rates, and that means to a considerable degree a surrender of the competitive principle. No two roads between the same points can adhere to open rates and have those rates different. They come inevitably to the same rate and the Elkins law proposes that the published rate shall be maintained.

We believe this to be evolution. There are economic gains from the consolidations, and we have reached the stage where varying freight rates, with advantages to large shippers, are not to be tolerated. But railway owners may as well recognize that the nearer their new position approximates to a practical monopoly the greater will be the pressure for public authority somewhere to review and control railway charges.

Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

H. H. HANKS

The Independent learns that H. H. Hanks of Otoe county will address the Men's club of the Second Presbyterian church, at 24th and O streets, Lincoln, on Monday evening, June 22, 1903, at 8 o'clock p. m., his subject being the Torrens system of land title transfers.

The theory of "surplus value"—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.