

# TRUE POPULISTS SPEAK

Story of the Committee Meeting Fully and Plainly Set Forth.

## AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE.

Faithful and Tried Middle-of-the-Road Followers Turned Down by False and Traitorous Leaders—A Strong Plea for Preservation of the Populist Party in Its Original Party.

The True Story of the Proceedings at the Populist Committee Meeting.

To the People's Party and Independent Voters of the United States: For many months it has been evident that designing persons were determined to rule the People's party in the interests of the organized democracy; that the chosen leaders and officials of our party thought more of the success of the Democratic party than they did of our own, than they did of the welfare and upbuilding of the reform party. While we have in the past been loth to take this view of the matter, recent events have been such that there is no longer any doubt of the aims of these false leaders, and that if the People's party is to live it must be taken in control by the people of the party, and the disloyal leaders turned out of its councils.

We have hoped that this matter could be postponed to the meeting of a national convention, but the occurrences of the past few hours at this city, Lincoln, Neb., during the meeting of the national committee of our party have made it imperative that the people delay no longer, but act before their party is destroyed.

There comes times in all ages and under all conditions when men who have been associated together can no longer agree, and in the national committee of the People's party that time was reached on February 19, when by arbitrary and unjust ruling certain populist officials who had been by the people intrusted with leadership and control sought to repay that trust with perfidy and political chicanery unheard of in the course and management of reform parties heretofore.

Before entering upon a detailed statement of these outrageous proceedings we consider it well to recount certain matters leading directly up to the points at issue.

In December, 1899, several members of the national committee representing southern states met at Memphis, Tenn., to consider the best plan of procedure to secure action by the national committee. The result of the conference was that a committee consisting of W. S. Morgan of Arkansas, M. W. Howard of Alabama and J. A. Parker of Kentucky were appointed to correspond with members of the national committee and ask them to sign a request upon Senator Butler that he call a meeting of the committee at Chicago, Ill., on February 12. Jo A. Parker was selected as secretary of that committee, and sent to all the members of the committee blank forms addressed to Senator Butler as chairman of the national committee and embodying the proposition to meet at Chicago on February 12. On December 21, Mr. Parker in person presented to Senator Butler at his residence in Washington sixty-nine of said petitions, embracing a majority of the committee. The senator refused to recognize these documents, saying that he had already sent out to the members of the committee a letter asking their votes on the time and place of holding the meeting. However, this communication did not reach many of the members until late in January; some did not receive it until after the formal call had been issued; while many members of the committee never received it at all, nor did they receive any notification whatsoever of the meeting of the committee. And when the date and place of holding the meeting of the committee were fixed the wishes of the sixty-nine members who had petitioned Senator Butler were utterly ignored, and on the vote of a small majority of the committee, the meeting was called for Lincoln, Neb., on February 19.

So unfair was the location of the meeting at this point regarded by many members of the committee that they resolved to stay away, as it was plainly to be seen that the meeting was placed at Lincoln for the purpose of giving the Bryan faction of the committee control in its organization. It must be remembered that there was a rule in the committee by which no person could vote but one proxy; and that the holder of a proxy must be a recognized populist by the authorities of the party in his own state. It was thought by the Bryanites that in Nebraska it would be impossible for the mid-roads to find men to vote their proxies, and it was well known that we were unable to bring men from other states, so it was thought reasonably certain that by locating the meeting at Lincoln the minority of the committee would be able to dictate its actions in the interest of Bryan and the democratic party. But when the men who were in control of the party organization reached Lincoln and compared notes, they found that they could only command to a certainty forty-two votes in the committee; while the mid-roads had fifty-seven, they having found in Nebraska, at the home of Wm. J. Bryan, plenty of populists who were opposed to the prostitution of the party to cast their proxies in accordance with the will of the mid-road members. Then it was that the plot was laid to control the committee by unfair means.

In giving out proxies of mid-road voters an agreement was signed by all proxy-holders, showing the demands of the straight populists from the committee, and that the populists of the nation may see that there is nothing unreasonable or unjust asked of the committee, nothing revolutionary and unparliamentary proposed or attempted, we are pleased to quote the agreement verbatim, to-wit:

"The undersigned, by their several signatures, witness the receipt of the proxies mentioned to be used in the sessions of the national committee of the People's party in Lincoln, Neb., on

Monday, Feb. 19, 1900, and those proxies having been sent to Jo A. Parker to be given out to such parties as he desires under direct and explicit instructions, we hereby agree in voting the same to use them in all cases in accordance with the following instructions:

"1. To vote for the holding of a national Peoples party convention in strict accordance with the so-called Omaha agreement—

"(a) Said convention to be held at least thirty days before either the democratic or republican conventions. "(b) The basis of representation to said convention to be the highest actual straight populist vote of record, exclusion of fusion votes, cast for state tickets since and including 1892. "(c) Nothing to be said or done by the committee or any member or officer of it in submission or suggestion of any fusion proposition with either of the old parties.

"2. To vote for the place to hold the convention agreed upon by the mid-road members of the committee in any caucus or by mutual understanding before the sessions of the committee.

"3. To vote to carry out the law of the party made at Omaha in 1892 preventing office-holders from holding seats in conventions of the party.

"4. To vote against any resolution which may be construed as an endorsement of any candidate for president or vice president.

"5. To vote against any resolution or motion to unseat any member of this committee on technical points, such as alleged adherence to Barker and Donnelly, on the ground that such adherence is disloyalty to the party or otherwise.

"6. In event the committee should disregard the propositions of the so-called Omaha agreement or should arbitrarily and without just cause unseat members of this committee, the holders of these proxies agree to withdraw from the meeting and take separate action along the lines above indicated."

When it was discovered by the fusionists that the mid-roads had a majority, and that their votes would be voted solidly on these questions, their leaders became panic-stricken, and various schemes were proposed—one of which was to boldly bar them out and refuse them admission to the hall under any circumstances. This plan, however, was abandoned, and it was finally decided that Chairman Butler should make up a temporary roll of the committee in such a way as to give the fusionists a majority; that they would then settle all contests in favor of their chosen tools, and turn out of the committee enough members to give them an unquestioned majority. Goebelin, in the days of its supreme iniquity in Kentucky; Quayism at the height of its infamy in Pennsylvania, never knew a more bold and infamous attempt to disfranchise a people; but that the people may know how this scheme was pursued, we call their attention to the procedure of these political buccaners.

The committee was advertised to meet at 2 o'clock, but it was late in the afternoon when the chairman called the meeting to order. The secretary read what he purported to be a temporary roll of the committee. It was at once evident what the schemes of the fusionists were. The state of Arkansas was called, and the name of A. W. Files was arbitrarily dropped from the roll; the name of M. W. Howard, in Alabama; the names of Geo. W. Wrickline of Illinois and N. H. Motinger of Indiana, Frank Burkitt of Mississippi, John Seitz and R. B. McCammon of Ohio and a score of other members of the committee whose title to a seat is unclouded, were also dropped from the temporary roll; while the members of the committee legally elected and recognized by the party in Florida, Indian Territory, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and New Jersey were ignored, and men who have been repudiated by their several states put in their places.

As soon as this roll was completed, Jo A. Parker, on behalf of the middle-of-the-roads, asked the chair for a re-reading of the delegation from Arkansas, which was done. He then asked for what cause and by what authority the name of A. W. Files was dropped from the rolls of the committee. Robert Schilling at once arose and asked by what authority Mr. Parker came into the committee meeting, stating that he was not a populist.

"It is to answer those questions that I will appoint the following committee," replied Senator Butler, who, amid a storm of protests, named as a committee on credentials, Senator W. V. Allen of Nebraska, Jas. B. Weaver of Iowa and J. H. Davis of Texas. Mr. Davis did not serve and Harry Tracy of Texas and later Tom Patterson of Colorado was appointed in his place.

A number of delegates were trying to get recognition of the chair to protest against the appointment of such a biased committee, when the chair, without more ado, declared the committee adjourned until eight o'clock. Notwithstanding emphatic protest Senator Butler refused to recognize a demand for a vote on adjournment, and walked down from the stand, deserting the chair. As soon as this was done, Mr. Parker of Kentucky moved that Mr. Deaver of Nebraska take the chair. The motion carried. All Reed of Iowa was elected secretary and an adjournment was taken, after appointing a committee of three on credentials, until 7:30 o'clock. At the time the committee received the report of the committee on credentials, showing eighty-seven members of the committee present in person or by proxy, another adjournment was taken, subject to the call of the chair.

The bolting faction of the committee, which had left the hall before the legal adjournment of the committee, held a session at night and representatives of the regular committee met with them and submitted through Messrs. Allen, Butler, Edgerton, Tracy and Patterson the following propositions of harmony between the factions:

"That the majority would yield to the minority and recognize their organization and sit with them, provided they would accede to these propositions:

"That the committee recognize only legal proxies, stamped with revenue stamps according to law.

"That the roll of the meeting at Omaha in 1892 be accepted as the roll

of the committee, except where subsequent state conventions have elected new members; except that cases of corent shall be before a contest committee composed of five members—two to be appointed by the friends of Senator Butler and two by the friends of Jo A. Parker, these four to agree upon a fifth member; and that in settling these contests no votes are to be cast on those cases by either contestants or contestants until all contests are settled."

These propositions were signed by forty persons, representing over fifty votes in the committee; but they were utterly ignored, and instead of a conciliatory report, the credentials committee brought in a report rejecting many proxies, by merely stating "proxy rejected." No reason for this rejection was given, and none would be given. The proxies rejected were of the same form in many instances as those received; they were filled out legally and bore revenue stamps, while sixteen proxies accepted by the committee were of similar form, and did not bear revenue stamps as the law requires, but they were fusion proxies, and of course, strictly so.

Tom Patterson of Colorado then moved that all members of the committee who attended the Cincinnati convention, or who had announced since then that they favored Barker and Donnelly for the candidates of the people's party, as well as all proxy holders coming under that provision should be barred from the meeting. Mr. Walters of Indiana moved as an amendment that all persons who in the past had bolted the action of populist conventions and refused to support the nominees should be barred out. Notwithstanding many of the persons recognized by the minority had bolted the Bryan and Watson ticket, in some instances supporting Bryan and Sewall, and in other instances supporting McKinley and Hobart, and although several persons recognized by proxy—otherwise were affiliating with democrats, and not recognized as populists by the party in their several states, this amendment was lost by a vote of 49 to 7. The original motion then carried by an almost unanimous vote, and the minority of one national committee had gone upon record as being willing to seat confessed bolters, democrats and republicans in their committee, but refusing to seat populists whose only fault was the presumption on the part of a few politicians that they might bolt the action of a convention which had not yet even been called.

When this action was carried, the representatives of the regular committee who had come on a mission of peace left the hall, and the mid-road members, representing a large majority of the legal votes present at the meeting of the committee, met in another place and proceeded to reorganize the committee by electing D. Clem Deaver of Nebraska national chairman and Jo A. Parker of Kentucky national secretary; Paul Dixon of Missouri, national treasurer, and Messrs. Jerome Kearby of Texas, John C. Luce of Oregon, W. L. Beck of Georgia, L. W. Smith of Maine, H. B. Fay of Minnesota and James H. Ferriss of Illinois members of the national executive committee. A committee of five was appointed to issue a statement to the press of the situation, and the same committee was instructed to issue a call for a national convention of the people's party to meet at Cincinnati, O., Wednesday, May 9, 1900, for the purpose of nominating populist candidates for president and vice president; and in addition to prepare a complete statement of the case and issue an address covering the same to the populists of the United States.

The call of this committee is the only legitimate call which can be issued, as the faction which claims that it is the national committee at its best was only able to muster fifty-two votes, two less than a quorum. Of these sixteen were proxies without the required revenue stamps, and consequently illegal; twelve were men who were refused a right to sit on the committee at the meeting in Omaha in 1892, as shown by the report of the credentials committee, which is in the possession of this committee, and bearing the signatures and endorsement of William V. Allen, A. H. Cardin, John P. Buchanan, C. A. Baylow and Eltwed Pomeroy, and five others have been turned out by regular conventions in their several states since the holding of the meeting at Omaha as the party law provides, at regularly held state conventions; while certain proxies were held and voted by persons who do not and have not for some time past affiliated with the people's party in their own states.

It is with regret that your committee has to chronicle this record of political chicanery. We had hoped to see harmony prevail here; but when this illegal and arbitrary power to decide who should sit in the sessions of the national committee and who should not was invoked to gain temporary advantage, it became clear that under any conditions upon which such an illegal committee would issue a call for a convention, the same tactics would be pursued there in making up a temporary roll of the convention, and the will of any majority, no matter how great, thwarted by a few designing politicians. Recognizing this, and feeling that we are in the right, that we represent the sentiments and principles of the rank and file of the people's party throughout the United States, the majority of your committee refused to temporize further with the insignificant minority which presumes to dictate the policies of a great party.

It has been evident for some years that the intention of certain persons placed in the leadership of the people's party has been to lead the stalwart reform voters who make up the membership of our party into the camp of the organized democracy. This has been accomplished to some extent through the policy of fusion, through which principle and honor are put upon the auction block and sold in exchange for offices and position. Your committee does not believe it is the will of those who have in the past unceasingly fought the battles of reform movement shall be sold to the corrupt and servile politicians of either of the old parties, and therefore we call upon the people's party of the several states of the union to support us in this honest effort to save the party from those who would destroy it. The cause is too great to surrender to spoliemen—

It is the sacred cause of human liberty. When this cause goes down, with it goes the hope of liberty for the people of America. Let us never surrender the people's party, but stand by it and uphold it in its onward course, until finally the victory shall be ours. It was at Cincinnati that the people's party was born; it was there that a few determined men met in 1895 and declared that it should not die; now let us gather the clans into a mighty conclave on the ninth of May at the birthplace of our party, and kindle anew the fires of liberty in our ranks which have been dimmed by the faithlessness of our chosen leaders in the past; and in this revival of the people's party let us adopt a system of party government that will make another betrayal impossible. And in this effort to make the people's party the people's party indeed, as well as in name, we invite the assistance and cooperation of all citizens of this republic who are opposed to the plutocratic measures of the two old parties; who favor the great principles of human liberty enunciated in the Omaha platform, and with direct legislation our battle-cry, we will go into the campaign of 1900 stronger than ever before as a party, and rid, thank God, of those false leaders who have in the past betrayed us for the fleshpots of democracy and the crumbs that fall from the masters' tables.

D. CLEM DEAVER, Chairman.  
JO A. PARKER, Secretary.

The general proportion of men and women in Europe is about 49 men to 51 women.

### Strawberries.

Frankford has an interesting curiosity in the form of a strawberry plant bearing twelve good-sized berries, which may be seen in the window of Mrs. J. M. Fredericks' residence, 4344 Paul street. The plant was taken from the yard in the fall and placed in a flower pot. No great care was taken of it or attention paid to it until recently, when twelve blossoms appeared. The berries followed in due time and look especially tempting in this wintry weather, when strawberries are a decided luxury.—Philadelphia Record.

### Playing Cards.

The amount of playing cards used in the world is something wonderful. The United States manufactures great quantities, and also imports many for use. Germany possesses thirty-four playing-card factories, which last year produced 5,260,000 packs. Of this quantity 4,987,000 went into circulation, paying a duty of 1,420,000 marks. No duty is paid on those exported, of which a large part come to this country.

### Bursts Into More Pieces.

The ordinary shell which was manufactured thirty years ago only broke into from twenty to twenty-five pieces when it burst. At the present time it bursts into 240, while a shrapnel shell, which only used to scatter thirty-seven missiles, now scatters 340. A present-day bomb, when charged with peroxylene, breaks into 1,200 pieces, and it is estimated that it would effectively kill any one standing within 220 yards of the explosion.

### A Four-Legged Criminal.

A mastiff was trained to assist thieves in Paris. It was in the habit of bounding against an old gentleman and knocking them over in the street. A "lady" and "gentleman"—owners of the dog—would then step forward to assist the unfortunate pedestrian to rise, and while doing so would ease him of his watch and purse.

### Tons of Lenden Death.

Forty million rounds of small-arms ammunition, 11,000 rounds of shrapnel, Lydite and common shell, 851 boxes of fuses and forty boxes of pistol ammunition were recently dispatched to the seat of war. This is one of the largest consignments of ammunition ever sent from Great Britain.

### Used as a Church 1,500 Years.

The oldest building in the world that has been uninterruptedly used for church purposes is St. Martin's cathedral at Canterbury, England. The building was originally erected for a church and has been regularly used as a place for religious gatherings for more than 1,500 years.

### O, Girls, What a Noise!

Musical industries in the United States report the largest sales last year ever known in the business. Over 120,000 pianos were made and sold, going beyond the previous year, 1897, by 30,000.

### Lots of Deer in Maine.

Grindstone (Maine) Cor. New York Sun: The outlook for deer hunting was never so good as it is this year. There are over 100,000 deer running wild in the Maine woods this fall, or more than in all the other New England and the middle states combined. Since the flies have gone and the animals have sought the hills great herds of 60 to 100 deer have come out to the clearings, stripping the gardens and fields of every growing thing. Last week they attacked a stack of oats owned by P. J. Tracey, of Staceyville, and leveled it to the ground in two nights. There were about 300 bushels of oats in the stack. Great fields of turnips and cabbage have been eaten down to the ground and stacks of meadow hay that have been waiting the time when the lumbermen could haul them to the woods have been wiped out as if by fire. It is no exaggeration to say that the average hunter who has average luck can leave New York on Monday morning, come to Maine, get two deer and return to his starting point before Saturday night. He can do this at an outside cost of \$100, and if he is an average man with average tastes he ought to do it for \$70, or less.

# HURTS SINCERITY.

## TOO MUCH AMUSEMENT IN THE CHURCHES.

Some of the Things Which Gov. Rollins of New Hampshire Thinks Are Making Americans Irreligious—Blames the Clergymen.

Gov. Rollins of New Hampshire, who in a fast day proclamation deplored the decline of religion in that state, made an address before the Boston Ministers' Union the other day. Among other things he said:

"I am an Episcopalian and feel the need of Christianity to make our nation's future all that we would like to have it. Without it we will go the way of Greece and Rome. Decay is sure to set in if we take the infidelity of France as our model, and we are steadily tending to it. I know Christianity is losing its hold upon the American people. It is so in New Hampshire and so in every sub-division of the Union.

"The Methodists, Baptists and Catholics approved of my fast day proclamation, while the Congregationalists did not. Episcopallians were prompted by it to undertake a household canvass of the state to be sure of its truthfulness. One reason of the decline in religion is a loosening of religious faith. You clergymen are no longer the spiritual guides of the people. The people now follow the religion of the newspapers. The ark has been overturned, the Bible account of the creation denied, Jonah repudiated and the anchor of the old faith has been pulled up before the sails are set for the new. The best blood of the country towns of northern New England has for generations been going to Boston and New York, leaving in some places only the weaklings to do the work in the old country home. These less energetic ones have intermarried, till in one town I am acquainted with in Maine there is an imbecile in almost every family.

"Denominational discord is another cause, especially in the country towns. People carry their religious disputes into weekday business, and thus weaken church influence. From this decline in religion naturally arises a neglect of the Sabbath, the introduction of European Sunday customs. The playing of golf on Sunday is one of our problems in New Hampshire. Shops are open, and Sunday theaters will be the next step. You will see them in Boston within a few years. The increase of foreign population is a gain rather than a loss to the country towns, for it brings in new blood, so greatly needed, and the people are usually strong Catholics, not irreligious, and their increase is a favorable element.

"What is the remedy? Such organizations of yours, the meeting of ministers of all denominations to discuss religious problems is a good feature, as is the work of the Young Men's Christian Association. But the keener and strongest men in every community now hold entirely aloof from church work and spend their Sundays in physical rest, and are seldom or never seen in church, which is now principally run by the women. The kind of men who go into the ministry is also a damage to the cause of religion. Young men who have no special call to anything else drift into the pulpit, where they seek a chance to get an easy living. Protestant churches have much to learn from the Roman Catholics, who take care to select the brightest young men for the priesthood, not allowing any drones to go to the theological seminary. There is too much attention to amusement in the church, too many candy pulls, and too little straightforward gospel preached. There are too many endeavors and too little endeavor among the young people. We must combat materialism, and this can best be done by using the straight, old-fashioned gospel."

### The Benefits of Early Rising.

It was once laid down by a celebrated writer and historian that the difference between rising at 5 and 7 in the morning for the space of forty years, supposing a man to go to bed at the same hour every night, is nearly equivalent to the addition of ten years to the life. This consideration should carry very great weight and be sufficient to induce those who have not hitherto practiced this habit to commence to do so, more especially the people who are always complaining that life is not long enough for them to transact all the work that they have to perform. There is much foundation for their complaint if they persist in wasting so many valuable hours of the day in bed. The advantages and benefits of early rising cannot be overestimated; in the early hours of the morning the brain is clearer and more ready for work, and after a night's sleep we should be ready to attack the work of the day.

### Dangers from Lamps.

The lamp is such a necessary article in the home that it is strange it should be neglected as often as it is. It requires but a few minutes' care each day to keep it in order, yet this short time is denied it by many housekeepers. An ill-kept lamp is a dangerous, as well as unsightly object, and many of the explosions of oil lamps, which appear almost every day in the newspapers, might be traced to carelessness in caring for the lamps. No woman having the welfare of her family at heart will willfully neglect this very important task. The danger of allowing children or even careless grown-up people to handle lamps cannot be overestimated.

# THE OCEAN GRAVEYARD.

## Sable Island's Fight Against the Sea—The Inroads Made by the Ocean.

"Sable Island belongs to Nova Scotia, is 145 miles from Halifax and 85 miles east of Capt. Canso," writes Gustav Kobbe in Ainslie's for February. "It is a treeless, shrubless waste, seamed by wind and wave and of ever-changing aspect. A coneshaped hill near the east end, once a mere undulation of sand, is now over a hundred feet high, and is still growing. Other hillocks are gradually being mowed away by storms. The hillocks are liable to be undermined so swiftly and swept out of existence that they are carefully watched from the various stations on the island, there being no certainty how far an inroad of the sea will extend after each successful attack. Even the coarse grass of the island grows in a different manner from that of the mainland. It does not bear seed, but shoots up from roots which run along the sand. During the winter the sand is blown over the grass and buries it sometimes three or four feet deep. But the hardy blades grow up next season, as if the island sands had protected them from the cold in winter in order to make them all the stronger. The island itself is fighting for self-preservation. It seems as if it drew ships into its fatal embrace as rallying points for its loose and shifting sand thus to protect itself by a bulwark of wrecks against annihilation by the sea. Tradition says that when Sable Island was discovered by Cabot, in 1447, it was eighty miles long and ten miles wide. In 1802, when a rescue station was established there, it was only forty miles long. Since then it has shrunk to but little more than twenty miles in length, and in width it is only a mile at its widest. Within twenty-eight years the western end lost seven miles. Shoals over which the ocean now surges are pointed out as former sites of lighthouses. One of these was so swiftly undermined by the sea that it had to be abandoned with the greatest precipitation. The spot where once stood the superintendent's house is now under two fathoms of water. The island, rapidly diminishing at its western end, is slightly gaining at its eastern. Slowly, like a ship dragging its anchor, it is moving eastward. Will it ever reach the edge of the shoals, stand tottering on the brink of the abyss till it receives its coup-de-grace and plunge over the submarine bank forever into the depths? Unfortunately, its end will probably be less dramatic. There is good ground for believing that this gray sand bar will slowly wear away until it becomes another submerged shoal added to an ambuscade already some sixty miles in length—for a line of breakers extends sixteen miles from one end of the island and twenty-eight miles from the other."

### FOOLING JUSTICE

#### Through a Kaffir Interpreter in the Transvaal Republic.

"It is a law in the Transvaal," said Henry Reading of San Francisco, who has lived in that country, "that, when blasting, after the shot has been fired you must make a preliminary investigation before putting the men back to work, which means that you must send in men who tap on the walls, floors, and ceiling, to make certain that they are sound, and that there will be no danger of a cave-in. In one of the mines with which I was connected, but which naturally I do not care to give the name of, occurred a cave-in in which a couple of Kaffirs lost their lives. The official in charge promptly had the foreman, a Swede, arrested for murder, and while it really wasn't the poor fellow's fault, it looked pretty black for him. Few of the niggers know much English, and it is therefore necessary to use an interpreter when talking to them. They are also very laconic, and seldom say more than yes or no in answer to a question. In order to straighten matters we got hold of the interpreter and squared matters with him, for if the foreman had been found guilty the mine would have had to pay a fine of £500 as well. The day the inquiry took place the first question the Boer official asked of our Kaffir was, 'Did you, after the shot was fired and before going in, carefully sound with a hammer the walls, ceiling, etc.?' That question got to the niggers something like this: 'When you are sleeping in the compound do you like it when the boss wakes you up with a whip?' There was an emphatic 'No!' The next query was, 'So you were thoroughly satisfied before going in that every precaution had been taken and that all was safe?' What they really were asked was, 'Would it please you to go down to Dutch Jake's and drink your fill of Cape smoke?' And the 'Yes' that followed nearly raised the roof, and that was the way that examination passed off, and as the official knew what yes and no in Kaffir was, at the close of his investigation, without delay, he not only released our foreman, but remitted the fine on the mine as well."—New York Tribune.

### Longevity of Animals.

It is said that the giant tortoise of the Seychelles islands is the longest lived animal in the world. The known age of one now living is 150 years, and this dates from the time the creature was full grown. How old it was at the time of its capture no one is able to conjecture. A fine specimen has been presented to the Zoological Society of London. It weighs about a quarter of a ton and is an exceedingly lively animal.