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DID EXCEEDINGLY WELL

The National Committee and Scores of Visiting Populists Assemble at

St. Louis

PEACE, HARMONY AND HOPE

They fix the Date and Ratio of Representation for the Next National

Convention

The Greatest Meeting of the Populist Party

The Pope Assemble.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 17, 1896.—[Special Correspondence.]—Members of the Populist National committee began to arrive last night, and this morning many more came. Besides the members of the committee large numbers of leading Populists from all parts of the country are here. Mr. Taubeneck chairman, Mr. Turner secretary and Mr. Rankin treasurer, got in early yesterday. Mr. Taubeneck, who has not been in good health for the last two years, is looking better than for a long time, over which fact his friends rejoice.

From Nebraska there have so far arrived J. A. Edgerton, Mr. Edmister, Mr. Jay Burrows, Mr. Daily, Mr. Tibbles, Paul Vandervoort, and V. O. Strickler.

Mr. Snyder, and a large delegation from Kansas are here.

Brown of Mass., came in yesterday. There is a very large delegation from Chicago. Mort Rankin from Indiana is the only one your reporter has met from that state. Henry Vincent, editor of Coxe's paper is here. There are large delegations from several southern states present and altogether they make a big jam in the spacious corridors of the Lindell Hotel.

Ignatius Donnelly of Maine, and Robt. Schilling of Wisconsin has just arrived.

What Senator Butler Said.

St. Louis, Jan. 17, 1896.—[Special Correspondence.]—The National Committee was called to order at 10 a. m. by Chairman Taubeneck. The room provided by the hotel proved altogether too small to hold the people present, and on motion of Ignatius Donnelly, an adjournment was taken to 11:15, when the hotel people would furnish a much larger room.

Judge Bell, Populist member of Congress from Colorado, and Marion Butler, Populist Senator from North Carolina, were seen standing in the corridor. They were soon surrounded by enthusiastic pops who nearly shook their hands off.

Senator Butler said: "We held a little conference in Washington and it was concluded that only two of us had better come. Things are pretty hot there and need watching. We are after the two old parties and have them on the defensive now. They plan to get up little contests about insignificant details to make a show of fighting each other. When they get it all fixed, then we pop in an amendment which brings up the main question, and they flock together instantly. We began the fight the first day we got there and have kept it up all the time.

"First we planned to show up the hypocrisy of the silver men in the old parties by offering to organize the Senate on a silver basis. We caught them as the fellow did the rat. We got their tail in the end of a split stick and twisted it until they squealed.

"The thing gets warmer every day. Senator Allen wanted to come, but we thought he had better stay on guard."

Judge Bell on the Press Monopoly.

Judge Bell laments over the fact that there is no trained populist newspaper man, with knowledge of how to get the news and the facilities for sending it out at Washington. He said:

"It is worse than ever—ten times worse. We can get nothing to the people at all. I see by your paper that even you did not know how many populists there were in the house. It's no fault of yours, however. How could you know?"

"How many are there, Judge?"

"There are seven—Baker, Skinner, Stroud, Shuford, Howard, Kem and myself, and another is sure to be seated. The fraud is so plain that even the republicans cannot stand it. Kirby of Texas will be given the seat now occupied by Abbott. There are a great many more contesting seats and without doubt some of them will be seated. But that is not the worst of it by any means. If the people could only know—but they can't. The money power holds every medium of communication. I have felt the force of this so greatly that I have prepared a statement and will print enough to send one to every populist paper, setting forth the existing state of affairs.

"Take this matter of the new rules of the house. The people of the United States have no representation there at all. Not a bill can be called up, not a resolution offered, not an amendment made, except at the will of one man. As far as legislation is concerned the members of the house might as well remain at home. The Speaker will not recognize a man to make a motion to change the rules.

All legislation is confined to one man—the Speaker. Even the republicans are protesting against this tyranny, but those who would revolt against it are just as helpless as the populists. The Speaker will not recognize them for such a purpose either.

One day, Hepburn of Iowa, had the floor on another subject and slipped in a motion to amend the rules before the Speaker knew what was up. Then he proceeded to make a speech on the subject for home consumption. I got some time and showed the tyranny of such a procedure as we have. The republican leaders found that there was going to be a great majority in favor of changing the rules, and they got after Hepburn and forced him to withdraw his resolution. It was reported that Hepburn went to Reed and made an humble apology. I, myself, saw him go up to the Speaker's desk and talk to him while this thing was under consideration. Of course I could not hear what he said.

"You know how the people were deceived by the press reports when you were there. It is ten times worse now."

Some Woeful Ignorance.

St. Louis, Jan. 17, '96.—[Special Correspondence.]—It is strange what an amount of incorrect information has been spread abroad among populists. It can be mostly charged to the control of all the avenues of information by the money power, but a good deal of it is owing to the extreme credulity of some populists. They seem to be willing to believe anything, however ridiculous it may be, especially if it reflects upon the character or motives of a man who has in any way become prominent in the party.

One populist editor told us today that J. H. Turner, the secretary of the national committee, was in favor of the retirement of the greenbacks and that he had published a paper in Washington advocating that policy, and the editor surely believed that was the truth.

To any one who knows Mr. Turner, such a statement would only cause a laugh. For Turner is a thorough believer in the scientific money.

Another editor of a prominent populist paper declared that Senator Stewart also wanted the greenbacks retired and was only interested in the free coinage of silver, because all his property was in silver mines. It really seems that such stupendous ignorance is hardly to be excused in a populist editor of a state paper.

Senator Stewart made a speech during the extra session of the fifty-third congress, over a million of which have been distributed among the people, in which he took the strongest ground ever taken by any man for scientific money. The title of the speech is "Silver and the Science of Money," and yet this editor insisted that Senator Stewart had never stated that he was opposed to the retirement of the greenbacks. Not ten days ago the senator delivered a terrific speech against the retirement of the greenbacks, and in favor of Senator Butler's bill to forever stop the issue of bonds by the executive department of the government.

Now, if populist editors are no better informed than that, what must be the condition of the mass of the people in the old parties? As Judge Bell says, this press monopoly is an awful thing.

Senator Stewart has not one cent invested in silver mines and has not had for over twelve years. He is a student and economist. He saw years ago, as did Senator Jones, that the money power would demoralize silver and they sold all their silver mines. As regards banks of issue, the congressional records is loaded down with Stewart's denunciations of them. He has made more speeches and written more articles against banks than any man living or dead. He is a grand old man and a populist from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet.

Airing Dirty Linen.

St. Louis, Jan. 17, 1896.—[Special Correspondence.]—An open meeting was held by the committee at 10 a. m. The roll was called, the proxies handed in and the list made up. Then some one made a motion, which carried, that those present and who were not members of the committee and who had no proxies should be allowed to express their views in five minute speeches. A good many took advantage of this to get up, and not only air their views but their political dirty linen also.

This sort of thing has occurred two or three times since the Populist party was organized, and it is to be hoped that it will never be allowed again. It does no good and often a great deal of harm. The reporters are present and hear all kinds of wild talk by irresponsible men—some of them, who could not be elected as a delegate to any convention, whose views are often not Populist doctrine at all, and they are spread abroad in the dailies as the ideas of the Populist party. The conference that met at St. Louis in connection with the National committee last winter was nothing but a howling mob, so disgraceful that many respectable Populists left the room and refused to return. The men selected by the National convention are the only ones who are responsible. If they want the advice of anybody, let them ask it privately and then meet by themselves, do the business and take the responsibility like men.

Some of the speeches made this morning were good, and did credit to the men who made them and the party to which they belonged, and some were of another sort altogether.

The Basis of Representation.

St. Louis, Jan. 18, 1896.—[Special Correspondence.]—The basis of representation for delegates in the next national convention was considered very carefully by the national committee and

there was some warm discussion over it, but the decision finally taken was adopted without a dissenting vote.

There were three propositions to consider. First, a representation based on population as it was in the Omaha convention,—so many delegates for each number of congress. Second, delegates based on the populist vote, and third, a compromise between the two.

The old way would have given New York, with a few thousand votes, more delegates than Kansas or Nebraska, with their many thousands and perfect organization.

To have based the representation on the populist vote alone would have given a majority of delegates, and consequently the control of the convention, into the hands of five states, viz.: Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, and North Carolina.

The proposition finally adopted was presented by Chairman Edgerton, of Nebraska, in a neat little speech which received many compliments. It is one delegate for each senator and member of congress and one for each two thousand votes or major fraction thereof. That will make the convention consist of 1,303 delegates, of which Nebraska will have fifty-three.

The Official Action.

St. Louis, Jan. 18, 1896.—[Special Correspondence.]—The will of the committee was so clearly expressed in its formal resolutions that no words need to be added to explain to the people what the committee wanted or what they intended to do. There is no prevarication about Populists. No one has to inquire what they mean when they say anything either by word of mouth or in a formal resolution.

The next thing after the basis of representation was fixed was to give an expression of what the policy of the party would in the future be, toward other reform organizations.

The following resolutions prepared and introduced by Ignatius Donnelly were carefully considered and then unanimously adopted:

Resolved; That this committee shall now proceed to perform the duty delegated to it, to fix the time and place of holding the second National convention of the People's party of the United States, to place in nomination candidates for president and vice-president upon a platform to be adopted by the said convention.

Whereas; This committee has no right nor does it desire to change in any particular the principles of the People's party of the United States; but it believes that in the midst of the dreadful conditions which now oppress the people of this nation—crushing industry, bankrupting commerce, impoverishing agriculture and concentrating the lands and homes of the people in the hands of a few, it is the duty of all honest men, without regard to past party affiliations to unite and rescue civilization from the greatest danger that has ever threatened it.

And whereas, it is unquestionably true that a large majority of the voters of this nation, while suffering for these conditions, are aware that they have been brought upon them by a betrayal of trust on the part of the two old parties; and whereas it is perfectly clear that if these voters can be brought together and organized that they can and will reverse the present infamous policy of robbers, and give to the people a return of good government based on the principles of true democracy as represented by Thomas Jefferson and of true republicanism as represented by Abraham Lincoln.

Therefore, we instruct the Executive Committee of this Committee to urge upon all men and organizations desiring financial reform, but who are not yet ready to become members of our organization, to hold a separate convention in the same city, and at the same time that we shall fix upon, so that an honorable effort may be made by conference and consultation, without any sacrifice of principle to unite all friends of financial reform in support of the same candidates for president and vice-president.

Resolved, That in so great a work of uniting the whole people against their oppressor, no small or petty considerations should stand in the way; and we therefore hereby express our feelings that if either the time fixed by us for the holding of the said convention, or the place in which it is to be held, shall constitute an impediment to perfect co-operation of all honest citizens at the ballot box, that our Executive Committee shall have power to change the said date and place; provided that the date shall be not prior to July 7, 1896, and not later than July 22, 1896, and that the place of meeting shall be such as to be not inconvenient to the body of our constituents. Any such change if made, shall be announced within ten days from this date.

The following resolution passed by the committee was not merely a compliment. They meant every word of it, for immediately afterward, without a dissenting voice, they turned over to the executive committee not only the power to fix a date, but to fix the place of holding the next national convention by adopting the following:

Resolved, In line with the action of our friends at state meetings lately held by the people's party in North Dakota, Illinois, and Indiana, the members of the national committee, in executive session at St. Louis, January 17, desire to express their entire confidence in the wisdom, judgment and integrity of our chairman, Hon. H. E. Taubeneck; our secretary, Hon. J. H. Turner; our treasurer, Hon. M. C. Rankin; and such of the

(Continued on 5th page.)

IS BEEMER A THIEF

It so Appears From the Opinion of Attorney General Churchill

FRAUDULENT VOUCHERS FOUND

Let the Citizens of Nebraska read the Records and Decide if He and the Men who Aided Him Should not be Imprisoned

They Drive Decent Men from the State

The following official documents and correspondence tell an exceedingly sad and disgraceful story for the state which we all love so well, and whose interest we would defend, if necessary, with our lives:

LINCOLN, NEB., Oct. 24, 1895.

Hon. A. S. Churchill, Attorney General, Lincoln, Neb.

DEAR SIR—I would beg to request of your department an opinion as to the fees and expenses allowed by law to the warden of the state prison for returning escaped convicts to the penitentiary.

Second, for returning paroled convicts whose parole has been cancelled by the governor and the warden directed to take them into his custody to be returned to the penitentiary to serve the remainder of their sentence.

Third, for conveying to the place of trial parties confined in the penitentiary who have been granted a new trial by the supreme court.

Yours very truly,

SILAS A. HOLCOMB, Governor.

In answer to this letter the Attorney General, after quoting the law replied under date of Oct. 29, 1895.

Out of the appropriations we think it would be proper for the warden to be paid his legitimate expenses in the return of an escaped convict. In our opinion therefore, compensation for the warden's services rendered to the state is limited to the amount of his salary, whether the service be attending to the penitentiary, or in performance of other duty connected with his office.

"It follows therefore that such services rendered by the warden as contemplated by your second and third inquiries, that he should receive no additional compensation, but should be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenditures made therein.

I remain yours very truly,
A. S. CHURCHILL, Atty. General.

VOUCHER NO. 84002.

The State of Nebraska: To A. D. Beemer, Dr.

Jan. 18, 1894, conducting remanded prisoner George S. Arnold, No. 1252 to Scott's Bluff county, Neb.

Conveyance from penitentiary to depot.....\$ 2 00
Fare for prisoner from Lincoln to Alliance 10 00
Carriage hire from Alliance..... 5 00
Board for prisoner..... 4 75
Miscellaneous..... 73 00
Attendance, self and guard three days..... 15 00

Total overcharge in voucher No. 84002.....\$ 93 85

VOUCHER NO. 81765.

The State of Nebraska: To A. D. Beemer, Dr.

Jan. 18, 1894, conducting remanded prisoner Samuel Barnes, No. 2386 to Tekamah, Nebraska.

Mileage.....\$ 10 00
R. R. fare for prisoner..... 2 96
Bus hire..... 2 00
Two days' attendance..... 6 00

Total overcharge as above.....\$ 20 96

VOUCHER NO. 84003

The State of Nebraska: To A. D. Beemer, Dr.

Jan. 18, 1894, conducting remanded prisoner Nebraska.

Self and guard one day.....\$ 5 00
Miscellaneous..... 2 00
Conveyance..... 2 00

Total overcharge as above.....\$ 7 00

VOUCHER NO. 84004.

The State of Nebraska: To A. D. Beemer, Dr.

Jan. 10, 1894, conducting remanded prisoner James P. Paine, No. 2226 to Lincoln, Nebraska.

Self and guard one day.....\$ 5 00
Miscellaneous..... 2 00
Conveyance..... 2 00

Total overcharge as above.....\$ 7 00

VOUCHER NO. 94958.

The State of Nebraska: To A. D. Beemer, Dr.

April 20, 1894, Expenses conducting remanded prisoner, Albert Bartell, No. 2411, to Harlan county, Nebraska.

Mileage, 125 miles, at 10c.....\$ 12 50
Railroad fare for prisoner..... 5 55
Board for prisoner..... 1 00
Bus hire..... 2 00
Two days' attendance..... 6 00

Total overcharge as above.....\$ 27 55

VOUCHER NO. 77399.

The State of Nebraska: To A. D. Beemer, Dr.

\$9.75. Paid June 14, 1893. Received of A. D. Beemer, warden Nebraska State Penitentiary, the body of Martin J. O'Grady, a convict of said pen. in accordance with a mandate of the supreme court reversing the decision of the lower court and remanding the prisoner for new trial. Signed, G. G. ZETAVEN, Sheriff.

VOUCHER NO. 83109

The State of Nebraska: To A. D. Beemer, Dr.

Jan. 1, 1894, conducting remanded prisoner Zoseth Warner, No. 2219 to York, Neb.

Mileage (54 miles and return).....\$ 5 40
Two days' guard..... 6 00
Transportation for prisoner..... 2 55

Total overcharge as above.....\$ 13 95

VOUCHER NO. 81766.

The State of Nebraska: To A. D. Beemer, Dr.

Expenses, conducting prisoner Edward Dean No. 218 (remanded for new trial) to Tecumseh, Johnson county, Nebraska, as follows:

Mileage.....\$ 5 20
Car fare for prisoner..... 1 55
Bus hire..... 2 00
Attendant..... 3 90

Total overcharge as above.....\$ 11 75

VOUCHER NO. 95277.

The State of Nebraska:

On June 15, 1894, voucher for \$9.75, and on January 18, 1894, voucher for \$13.95, were drawn by A. D. Beemer on appropriation for delivering convicts on court orders, of which no copies appear on the records. Total amount of vouchers drawn, \$23.70.

In the above eight vouchers the overcharges amount to \$183.85, of which the taxpayers of this state were deliberately robbed by this unprincipled outfit. There are a great many other vouchers that we have not been able to get hold of, so many that it is impossible for us at this time to estimate the total amount of overcharges. In cases exactly similar to those of vouchers No. 84003 and 84004, Warden Leideigh has received for the same services only fifteen cents each, where Beemer's charges were \$7.00, in each case. Vouchers and figures do not lie.

It will be seen that by the official opinion of the Attorney General himself, given in the above letter, that the man whom he wanted to appoint as superintendent of the penitentiary was a public thief, and now after having so laid down the law, and the proof being presented to him in the above documents, that A. D. Beemer was engaged in perpetrating constant thefts for years, Attorney General A. S. Churchill, pays to the said thief more money through the action of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings. Is it any wonder that decent men are refusing to live under such a government and are leaving the state?

ANOTHER FAILURE

That Great Wave Reaches Lincoln Once More

The Lincoln Savings Bank and Safe Deposit Company was closed today (Wednesday). John E. Hill, ex-estate treasurer, of Capital National bank fame, and member of the old state house ring has been appointed receiver. It is generally believed that the bank is in very bad condition.

State Silver League.

The executive committee of the Nebraska Silver League has appointed the following committees with power to organize branches of the league:

Sarge County—J. E. Curti, Papillion; A. E. Langdon, Papillion; E. L. Hileman, Gretna; E. J. Smith, Springfield.

Jefferson County—Captain Tait, Endicott; Robert Williams, Fairbury; W. M. Greene, Fairbury; Geo. H. Bailey, Fairbury.

Cass County—Wm. Murray, Maynard; B. F. Allen, Wabash; F. J. Morgan, Plattsmouth.

Platte County—J. B. Jones, Platte Center; Warwick Saunders, Columbus; J. A. Kehoe, Platte Center; Allen Gerrard, Monroe.

Lancaster County—E. E. Brown, Lincoln; J. Burrows, Lincoln; J. H. Broady, Lincoln; A. G. Wolfenbarger, Lincoln.

Wayne County—Wm. Wright, Wayne; James Britton, Wayne; J. M. Pyie, Wayne; Dr. H. G. Leisveing, Wayne.

Adams County—Dr. J. N. Lyman, Hastings; Dr. J. T. Steele, Hastings; Harry Dungan, Hastings; C. L. Jones, Hastings.

Merrick County—Chas. Wooster, Silver Creek; A. Ewing, Central City; Samuel F. Kennedy, Central City; J. W. Sparks, Central City.

Colfax County—E. A. Robbins, Schuyler; Alfred Pont, Howells; James Hughes, Schuyler; John Anderson, Schuyler.

Pawnee County—J. M. Barnard, Lewiston; Charles Mayberry, Mayberry; R. W. Story, Pawnee City; J. L. Clark, Pawnee City.

Hall County—P. R. Staith, Grand Island; J. L. Johnson, Grand Island; W. H. Thompson, Grand Island.

Seward County—Geo. A. Merriam, Bee; D. D. Remington, Seward; Alex. H. Vance, Milford; George H. Leewilliger, Seward.

The following is the list of delegates appointed by Governor Holcomb to attend the second annual convention of the Nebraska Beet Sugar Association to be at Fremont, Neb., Feb. 5 and 6, 1896.

W. G. Whetmore, Valley; H. H. Nicholson, Lincoln; J. S. Gable, Lincoln; I. A. Fort, North Platte; Theodore Loeschner, Norfolk; W. A. Poynter, Albion; Henry E. O'Neill, Omaha; John T. Mallalieu, Kearney; Fred Hedde, Grand Island; John Dern, Fremont; A. E. Sheldon, Chadron; Charles Mann, Chadron; Ed. J. Hall, Grand Island; John L. Johnson, Abbott; M. K. Turner, Columbus; Charles Wooster, Silver Creek; W. H. Lanning, Hastings; E. D. Johnson, Lexington; L. Morse, Benkleman; John H. Powers, Lincoln.

When the Fitzgerald Dry Goods Co. sailed Monday morning, there were great crowds of people in the street and on the sidewalk waiting their turn to get into the store. When Fitzgerald advertised that he will sell something cheap, the people have learned to believe him.

BOODLING OFFICIALS

They Steal \$2,000 of the People's Money and Give It to Beemer

THEY DEFY THE SUPREME COURT

The State Disgraced, the People Robbed, and Anarchy Introduced by the Churchill-Russell Gang

The Opinions of Honest Republicans

That the Churchill-Russell gang are thieves and nothing else, is slowly dawning upon the better class of republicans in the state. They belong, and ought to be classed with the men who blow open safes and hold up and rob on the public highway. That they are officers of the law does not in the least palliate their thefts. The following article which appeared in the Omaha Bee of January 19, shows what they did last week. Is not this government becoming as foul as that of Rome just before she was engulfed in her in her own rottenness?

LINCOLN, Jan. 18.—[Special.]—For several months the Board of Public Lands and Buildings has been insisting on its right to "manage" the affairs of the state penitentiary. A striking illustration of its peculiar system of management has just been developed. The board refused to permit Warden Leideigh to draw directly from the state auditor any of the appropriation, \$102,200, for penitentiary purposes. On the contrary, it appointed A. D. Beemer "prison contractor," which appointment has been knocked out by the supreme court as illegal. But previous to the decision of the court Beemer succeeded in drawing \$2,000 from the state treasury. To a representative of the Bee he said he had expended \$1,647.56 of this sum, paying up back salaries, for coal, electric lights, etc., leaving a balance on hand of \$352.44. To another reporter for a Lincoln paper he now says he expended but \$1,500, leaving on hand \$500. This latter he retains as his salary. In other words, the scheme of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings in its management of penitentiary affairs includes the payment of 25 per cent of the state's appropriation to a third party. Despite the fact that the supreme court has declared Beemer's contract with the board illegal, the board has settled with him and allowed each of the appraisers of Dorgan's plant \$500. Beemer got \$500 for "handling" \$2,000.

Land Commissioner Russell, one of the members of the board of public lands and buildings, was seen by a representative of the Bee and asked if it was true that the board had settled with Beemer and paid him \$500 for services under the contract declared illegal by the supreme court. Mr. Russell said: "The board has not officially notified Beemer that he can retain \$500 from the \$2,000 which he drew, but you can say in your paper that that is what will be done at our next meeting."

"But Mr. Beemer," it was suggested, "says that he has expended \$1,647.56 of the \$2,000 for penitentiary purposes. Will he be permitted to draw a warrant for the \$147.56 still due him?"

"No."

"Then, from what source will he reimburse himself for his labors in paying the warden's bills."

"I don't know. All I know is that he is to have \$500 for his services under the contract. I have not looked over Beemer's contracts, but my deputy, Mr. Royle, has."

Governor Holcomb was asked for his opinion regarding the exorbitant price paid Beemer for his services under the illegal contract. He said:

"The whole payment is illegal. But if the Board of Public Lands and Buildings wishes to pay Beemer for time spent laying around the state house waiting on the indefinite prospects of getting some official position, I suppose the board will go ahead and do it. Beemer did nothing at all for this \$500 that Warden Leideigh would have not done for nothing. The whole deal is a fair sample of what would have occurred on a large scale had the supreme court declared his contract binding on the state."

THAT GREAT WAVE

Is Rapidly Overtaking Our Banks

Since the first of January of this year that great wave of prosperity has overtaken nine State banks all of which are now in the hands of the banking undertakers. This is an average of three bank failures every week, National banks not included. The nine State banks closed since January 1st are as follows:

Bank of Blue Springs, Brayton Commercial Bank, Exchange bank of Greeley Center, Bank of Ogallala, Farmers and Merchants bank of Platte Center, Greeley County bank at Scotia, Bank of Stratton, Bank of Wauweta, Bank of Commerce at Grand Island.

Our bankers are beginning to realize that when the money power has crushed our business men and farmers, and robbed them of their savings for years by compelling them to buy high priced money to pay their obligations and thus forcing them out of business, that there is no longer any profit in business and that the eastern men will turn upon them as they have upon other men. If we would live and prosper we must all get together under the People's Banner.

Browning, King &