

THE BEET CONVENTION

It Was Inaugurated to Get a Pull on the Sugar Trust for Nebraska Campaign Funds

A LOT OF POLITICAL FARMERS Who Resort to Fat Frying to Grease the G. O. P. Machine

Would-be Governor Meiklejohn Wants Boodle Bad

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Feb. 8, '96. Editor NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT:—I was interested in reading an account of the beet sugar convention in the daily papers and could not help but think that the more the people of Nebraska were plundered the bolder became the organized plunderers. We see that a resolution was adopted by the political farmers present favoring a sugar bounty law in Nebraska which shall stand for five years or until 1801. In the face of the experience of the farmers of Nebraska who have raised beets during the past four years, this exceeds any exhibition of gall yet manifested by the sugar trust, which no doubt is back of this political movement. They seem to carry the idea that a poultice of the dog is good for the bite and propose to benefit the farmers who have been plundered to a finish by plundering them still more, or until another election is carried, a new legislature and a new delegation to congress is elected. If stripped of all its demagoguery this is what the present beet sugar convention was called for, to invoke the aid of the sugar trust in carrying the next election for the republican party and place a few political farmers, who farm the farmers, in pastures where they can live in luxury at the expense of the class for which they pretend to be so solicitous.

Twenty-five years ago the state of Nebraska was given to the people for taking as homesteads. The men who developed it have created enough wealth during the twenty-five years to feed a dozen such states and furnish a luxurious living for the family of every tiller of the soil in the state leaving him out of debt and with plenty of support for mine and his for the balance of their allotted time on earth. But the farmers of Nebraska have listened to the songs of such political farmers as congregated at Fremont in the beet sugar convention and the result has been different. These political farmers have advocated the return to a gold basis with all the accompanying distress and ruin for the producing classes while at the same time they have advocated protection to American trusts, mis-called American industry, because the trust power and capitalists behind the money combines consented to the "fat frying" forces to furnish the grease for the political machinery by which they expected to reap a harvest of spoil. This has gone on in Nebraska until the farmers who developed the state by hard work found that they have not even an equity in what their labor created, as the return to a gold basis has struck the value of their property below the mortgage that was plastered on it, in inflated times, to cover the shortages occasioned by continually doing business on a falling market.

The political farmers, who met at Fremont, know this but they dare not acknowledge it as the political machine to which they belong is controlled by the beneficiaries of the cursed system which has brought the people in every part of the country to the condition of want.

The people are complaining and the political farmers, headed by the would-be governor Meiklejohn, acknowledge their right to complain by the calling of this beet sugar convention. Mr. Meiklejohn leaves his seat in congress and travels 1,500 miles to show his profound solicitude, not for the people, but for his chance of either being relegated to his law office in Fullerton or being elected to the governorship of Nebraska. The old song that the republican party "freed four million slaves and that six hundred thousand brave boys fell in their country's cause" that the country might live, no longer has an effect with a people who are being shrunk out of house and home in the country they fought to save. He makes a speech to boom himself and modestly gives out the idea that the cause of the people's distress is the over production of non-paying crops. The demagogue who utters such a sentiment ought to be booted down by every producer in the country. The idea of over-production of the necessities of life with food products offered for sale at prices less than the cost of production while want, destitution and even starvation is stalking naked through the length and breadth of the land is as outrageous as it is idiotic. The people will no longer believe such diocricacy the necessity of getting up something new to attract their attention while the political farmers corral their votes for the purpose of retaining their spoil absorbing positions as office holders for the people they deceive. It used to be railroad bonds to benefit the people by more rapidly developing the state, then it was creameries, then canning factories and every form of subsidized improvements that was to bring prosperity to the people but the people were expected to pay the expense of the purchased prosperity which never came. Now it is the beet sugar industry. If the people would look into the matter a little they could figure out the inwardness of the thing in a few minutes and arrive at the conclusion that they are now asked to subsidize a trust which has robbed them in the past and will continue to rob them in the future if the people are gullible enough to be roped in by the new craze.

Look back over the history of the craze for a few years, in 1888 the democratic party was in power and the Mills tariff bill was before congress. The republican party is the party of the robber tariff, which collects from the earnings of one man and turns it over to another, but the Mill's tariff bill was a democratic measure and the republican party was fighting it simply because it

was a democratic measure. The only sugar production in the United States at that time was in Louisiana but the sugar trust was doing business at the old stand and was coming millions by the benefit of the tariff on sugar. The Mill's bill provided for a tariff on sugar and "fat fried" from the sugar trust to grease the political machinery was liable to go to the democratic party. A great wave of virtue seized the managers of the republican party and they resolved to strike a popular chord by pronouncing for "free sugar, free lumber and free suit." Every voter in Nebraska will remember how this song was sung by the republican stump orators in the campaign of 1888. Nebraska had three congressmen at that time and they all advocated "free sugar" in their campaign for re-election. Senator Manderson also took the stump for "free sugar." Congressman Dorsey made it a point in every speech he made in the third district to explain why he could not vote for the Mill's bill by saying that "no loyal man could vote for a measure that protected nothing but a little rebel industry down in Louisiana." He was cheered to the echo by the republican crowd who at that time did not want to foster the "great sugar industry." The people will recollect that the republicans carried the election that fall and all the congressmen and a republican legislature, in Nebraska were elected pledged to "free sugar." Between election day in November and the first of January, 1889, was the first the people of Nebraska ever heard of the fact that Nebraska had the best soil on earth for producing sugar beets. The Oxwards appeared on the scene and proposed to establish great sugar factories in Nebraska providing the republican party in Nebraska did not carry out its platform to put sugar on the "free list." The republicans had elected a congress pledged to do this and the sugar trust must do something at once to counteract it or go out of business. The fat began to fry out in the interest of the republican party and the congress elected on a "free sugar" platform did not put sugar on the free list, and the Nebraska legislature elected pledged to free sugar passed a sugar bounty law. The sugar trust established a factory in Nebraska as a showing of good faith in the robbery and attempted to compel the people to pay the expense of keeping the tariff on sugar and building up a sugar tariff sentiment in Nebraska again. The great industry has gone on until this time and every farmer who has attempted to raise beets under the new craze has lost money in addition to the bounty and tariff paid on trust sugar. The people now commenced to complain of the robbery of the new industry as carried on by the sugar trust and the political farmers who receive the benefits of the "fat fry" out for political purposes must do something to earn the benefit. Hence the beet sugar convention at Fremont and the new policy adopted in the beet business which will result in the same disaster to the producing classes that all other attempts to buy prosperity have in the past.

If the sugar beet crop is the most profitable of any crop why not let it stand on its own merits? Why tax the producers of corn and other crops to subsidize a crop that is so much more profitable? The only answer that can be made is the fact that politicians are advocating it for the protection of a gigantic trust with the one purpose in view of profiting politically by the money contributed by the trust for political purposes. The people had better by far call mass conventions to discuss the questions or policies of government that will give them a cheaper money, or a money that the crops they produce now will buy enough of to pay debts and afford some of the luxuries of life for their families than to be listening to the demagogues who advise them to buy prosperity by paying subsidies to monopolies that have no other aim than to absorb the wealth they produce. When the people do this and begin to protect themselves by shaking off political demagoguery and curbing trusts they may hope for emancipation from their miserable condition, and not until then.

Very respectfully,
Ed. J. HALL.

WHERE IS THAT WHISKEY?

It All Disappeared While the Republicans Had Charge.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 9.—A special to the Journal from Topeka, Kan., says: For years all the whisky, beer and other liquors captured from Topeka bootleggers and joint keepers had been stored away in a cellar beneath the court house. Wagon load after wagon load of liquor has been stowed away in that cellar and it has always been the belief that it contained a larger stock than any bonded warehouse this side of Kentucky. Yesterday Bob Kepley, the new sheriff of Shawnee county, concluded to take an inventory of the liquor on hand, and what was his astonishment to find that every barrel, keg and bottle was empty, with the exception of some bottles of "white horse" which the robbers appeared to be too fastidious to desire. Where the stuff has gone to is a mystery. It is said that but one key exists to the cellar door, and it has always remained in the possession of the sheriff. The retired sheriff, Dave Burge, says he has no idea where the stuff went, and is sure none of the officials at the court house had anything to do with its disappearance.

Taubeneck and Watson.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The populist senators held a caucus today and concluded to stand by their former decision to nominate candidates of their own for the office of secretary and sergeant-at-arms of the senate when the election of these officers are undertaken in accordance with the republican program. The populists will name Hon. Thomas Watson of Georgia for secretary and Mr. Taubeneck of Illinois for sergeant-at-arms.

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The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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Senator Butler's speech delivered in the senate Tuesday, January 14, against the further issue of bonds and to prevent the payment of coin obligations in gold alone, has struck a popular chord from ocean to ocean. Requests for copies of this speech are daily received from every state and territory in the union, until the demand has reached several hundred thousand copies. A further gratuitous distribution of the speech taxes the pocket of the author beyond his ability. To meet the popular demand, however, the speech will be distributed at the cost rate of \$1.50 per hundred or \$12.50 per thousand. Orders may be sent to the Public Printer, Washington, D. C., or John B. Hussey, clerk of Committee on Organization, Executive Department, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

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AN OLD HAYSEED TALKS

What he thinks of the Independent and Beet Sugar Conventions

FREMONT, Feb. 6, 1896. EDITOR INDEPENDENT:—I am full and running over and I want to say something, but being an old hayseed, it will perhaps be bungling but I am going to say something nevertheless.

I want to appeal to every mother's son of a populist (and daughter too) to stand up for Nebraska by standing up for, and aiding with your money the INDEPENDENT that is fighting your battles and the battles of the laborer, and if you are in arrears pay up, and not only pay what you honestly owe, but place your order for a year at least in advance. If we ever expect to win we must come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The fight is on for one of the greatest struggles against combinations of every description this country ever witnessed, and the best weapon we can use is the dissemination of the light and truth which must be accomplished through the press of the country that is not subsidized by the monopoly power, by those papers that are not working for self, but are fighting manfully for the truth which will make us free. But I want to tell you, brother pops, that you can not do it on light air and scenery however beautiful it may appear. No, brothers, it will take something that will buy blank paper, bread and butter, clothing and pay help. Although it is silver and only worth fifty cents on the dollar you can send it to the INDEPENDENT and get a dollar for it. So I say again, come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty with your silver dollars if you have nothing else, and the INDEPENDENT will give you credit for a dollar's worth just the same as though it was gold and would be mighty glad to get it, and you that are in close proximity, I doubt not that you can take him a load of cobs or wood. He must buy as he has to sell. He and every one else like him would be much more happy and prosperous if he was compelled to pay you twice as much as he now does, everything else being equal.

Well, as you know, there was a sugar beet convention here yesterday and today. Owing to sickness I couldn't attend all the time, but long enough to see plainly that the sugar manufacturers had captured the convention. Although honest John Powers was on guard for the people, he was in the minority and was voted down on the subject of the bounty.

When I went in yesterday, the great "I am," Meiklejohn, would be governor, was reading a flowery speech and for some time I did not know but I had mistaken the time and place for the beet sugar meeting, and had run into a political meeting of some kind, but I finally came to the conclusion that I was really in the sugar beet convention. Although Meiklejohn was very careful to tell his dupes that he didn't wish to turn the meeting into a political one he talked three or four times as much about over-production and the tariff as he did about beet sugar industry, as also did Mr. Green who spoke in ex-Senator Manderson's stead. I was in about an hour while Mr. Green was speaking and his whole theme was the tariff and its effects. When Governor Holcomb spoke he came straight to the beet sugar industry and never left the subject, but said he hoped it would not be turned over to any monopoly.

Now, Mr. Editor, I would like to write all night but I fear this is already too long. God speed the right.
B. F. CLEVELAND.

Send us in a list of names to whom we may send sample copies of this paper.

Take Care of Poor Thurston

UNION, Neb., Feb. 2, 1896. EDITOR INDEPENDENT:—Did you read Senator Thurston's maiden speech on the Monroe resolution? *If that was a maiden speech what will we look for when he gets fully initiated into the business. He calls on God to witness to his sentiments. Why should he call on strangers to him, when there were so many friends in and around the capitol. Did he not stop over a little? Has he not got a soft spot in his head somewhere? Congress should see to it that Thurston does not go to the war by himself entirely alone. L. G.

[Thurston did not propose to go to the war himself. He offered on the altar of his country the shade of his dead father and the body of a living son. He didn't offer himself—not much. Read the speech again. ED. INDEPENDENT.]

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Do Beat the Bankers.

In 1894 D. J. Poynter, a populist, took the office of treasurer and proposed living up to the law, but he had not a bed of roses, for the local bankers determined to make him deposit the money with them as before without interest. They pooled issues and refused to bid on the money, but they found a man who had a will of his own. Poynter compelled the outgoing treasurer to hand over all county funds in cash, and not certificates of deposit. With the large amount of money on hand and not a suitable place to keep it he was certainly in a tight place, but he was not a putty man and remained firm. On his own hook he purchased a safe and proposed guarding the county treasurer if it took a regiment of men. When the banks finally saw that he meant business they took the money on interest and his recent report shows that in two years with all his difficulties, he received \$2,775.95 interest and after paying for the safe he had over \$2,000 by which the people are the gainers.—Petersburgh Index.

Now is the time to subscribe. To say that the opportunity will never return again would be to predict the improbable, but there is no time like the present and no better use to which a dollar can be put.

Without Conscience

So far as they understand the question the gold advocates seem to be literally without conscience. They are ready to subordinate every principal of equity to the maintenance of the gold standard. According to their ethics every requirement of honesty and morality is met by the gold dollar, no matter how rapidly its value increases. They are horrified at the idea of the creditor being paid in a cheaper dollar, but can see nothing wrong in the debtor being compelled to meet his payments in a dearer one. They in fact see nothing but the interests of the monied classes and those who stand on peculiarly advantageous ground. The man who is living on the interest of his money, doing nothing for the benefit of mankind, the office holder, the bank clerk and a few others who occupy such a position that their salaries are practically fixed—these are the only classes whose interests receive any consideration in the gold standard code of morals.—National Bimetallist.

If you have a good book on the financial question which you have read, suppose you loan it to your neighbor for his enlightenment on this all-important subject.

Every one Should Read it

T. H. Tibbles is the editor of the Nebraska INDEPENDENT, the new populist state organ evolved from the Wealth Makers and the Independent. Mr. Tibbles is a journalist of wide experience, and wields a prolific pen. He is a veteran in the field of reform. He is able, aggressive and liberal. If he has a fault it is eagerness for results. He will give the people a strong and vigorous paper and everyone should read it.—People's Banner.

Get R. R. and Steamship tickets at 117 So. 10th St.

Drop-d the Sub Treasury

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union which has been in session here three days, adjourned this afternoon. Important action was taken during the closing session, and among these the "sub-treasury plan," to which the Alliance has been committed for a number of years was dropped from their platform.

Going From Lincoln to Pacific Coast?

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Unlimited

Dubois said the populists were for the unlimited inflation. We are sorry to have to say that Dubois is an "unlimited" liar. We had some respect for him, but he is evidently a silver man because he lives in a silver state. The people of Idaho will cook his goose this year, and he will sink into the obscurity from whence he sprang.—Helena News.

Going East?

The Northwestern Line is direct to Chicago and makes the fastest time. Two trains week days, one Sundays. City office 117 S. 10th St.

Can't Kill Them That Way

Tom Reed thinks he can stop the growth of the populist party by refusing to let the populists speak in the house. Their silence will speak louder against the republicans than their voices. You can not kill the populists that way.—Helena News.

The Sioux City and St. Paul Route everybody should know is the Northwestern. Only direct line. City office 117 S. 10th St.

We'll do it Anyhow

The Nebraska INDEPENDENT says that it will exchange with every populist paper in the state. That is the proper spirit and our state paper will find that the boys will respond right royally and it will find that its exchange list is a most profitable investment.—West Union Gazette.

Growing More Interesting.

We have mentioned before in these columns that the Wealth-Maker and INDEPENDENT had consolidated, but the paper is so fast growing more interesting that we will say again that it should be in the home of every farmer and business man in the state. THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT is now the name of the paper, and it is published in Lincoln at \$1 per year.—Saline County Independent.

Where is He?

In Colorado they are mining gold for six cents on the dollar. What has become of that "intrinsic value" idiot? Gone fishing, we suppose.—Ellisville (Miss.) Patriot.

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WM. LEESE, Attorney at Law.

NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENT.

Katara Boomer, defendant, will take notice that Emery Boomer, plaintiff herein, filed his petition in the district court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, on the 27th day of January, 1896, against said defendant, the object and prayer of which are to obtain a divorce from said defendant on the grounds that you, Katara Boomer, committed adultery with William Hughes, at your home in Humboldt, Nebraska, on or about June 29, 1893. You are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, March 16, 1896. EMERY BOOMER, by Wm. Leese, his Attorney. Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 3, 1896.

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