

# The Nebraska Independent.

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## ROW IN WASHINGTON.

The old Party Silver Senators Feel Awful Weary.

ARE TOO TIRED TO EVEN TALK.

John Sherman Likely to be the Republican Candidate.

Interview With Allen and Peffer.

THE PEOPLE'S PARTY NEWS BUREAU, 1 BLISS BUILDING, 35 B, N. W.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—It becomes more apparent every day that the national contest this year will be between the republican and people's party, with financial reform as the dominant issue. Every populist leader here sees exactly that situation as the result of the two old conventions. As yet there is no organized silver movement outside the people's party. It is not believed here that the meeting of the bimetallic forces in St. Louis, July 22d, will result in the organization of a distinct, independent silver party.

Should both the old party convention's break up in a row over the financial question, which is not anticipated, the organization of an independent silver movement might follow. Otherwise the silver sentiment of the country must sustain the people's party candidate for the presidency and co-operate with that party in legislative and congressional elections.

What will happen at St. Louis in June, and at Chicago in July, nobody can guess. Party harmony seems impossible. There appears no rift in the clouds anywhere. If silver democrats and silver republicans are not all liars and cowards they will walk out of the Chicago convention in the event of a gold standard nomination and walk into the people's party. Will they do it? Democrats with Tillman's courage and convictions will do it. "South Carolina," he said to a Bureau representative, "will never submit to the nomination of a gold standard candidate for president. Her delegates will go to Chicago openly and unconditionally instructed to leave the convention in that event."

No other southern leader has had the courage to make the same declaration. It is frankly confessed by nearly all of them that Tillman's ultimatum applies to every southern state, but the politicians will try to fool the people once more. A prominent southern democrat, speculating as to the effect of a gold-standard nomination at Chicago said:

"So far as the south is concerned I look for no general stampede from the democratic party on that account, but I do expect that the stay at home vote will cost the party both its electoral and state ticket in nearly every southern state, and there is a mighty good prospect that a big slice of the south's 160 electoral votes will go to the people's party candidate and elect the next president on the issue of a change in our monetary system. It seems now an absolute impossibility to influence the masses of southern democrats against their convictions on the money question, whatever position the leaders may take. They may not abandon the organization and openly avow adherence to the people's party, but they will resent false leadership, compel party demoralization by indifference and secure defeat at the polls by refusal to vote."

Almost every southern democrat one meets here admits this. Of course this observation does not apply to the "machine" managers and followers who manipulate local conventions, nor to an influential class of city and town democrats who are subservient to bank and corporation influence. It is the plain people who will no longer submit to "boss" dictation that threaten two old parties with disruption. The people's party is the logical beneficiary of this party distrust and resentment, and if the opportunity is rightly used the election of the people's party candidate for the presidency must be the inevitable result.

No silver republican leader has expressed the courage of Tillman's convictions, or even suggested his ultimatum. On the contrary the Ohio straddlers have given western silver republicans some hope that the national convention will go to the extreme limit short of a positive free-coinage declaration. Will that satisfy the western silver republicans? Senator Teller declines to say what he thinks about it, or what he will do until the convention meets, but leaves no room to doubt that a straddle is more obnoxious than a straight gold-standard declaration. The question has been asked him several times recently, what he would do in the almost certain event of a gold-standard nomination at St. Louis. He has emphatically declared that he would not support it, but he has not said that he would leave the republican party on that account. If the alternative is presented he will retire, he says, from public life. This is not accepted in Washington, among his campers, as a serious declaration. At any rate he will not talk about the Ohio deliverance nor discuss the St. Louis combination. Another clam since the cyclonic sweep of the McKinley movement is Dubois, of Idaho. Not many days ago he declared that sooner than support a gold-standard candidate he would vote for Morgan, of Alabama. It was Dubois who asserted on the floor of the senate some time ago that the people's party platform is not an honest free-silver declaration. But Dubois is in a tight place. He sees in McKinley's "protection and bimetalism" dodge the hope of a straddling and another term in the senate. He

will not talk any more until after the St. Louis convention, and after that he may be found in the McKinley band-wagon.

"The new Ohio plank" said Senator Allen, "is a repetition of the Minneapolis straddle, which meant the gold-standard in the east and free coinage in the west in the last presidential campaign. It is an affront to the intelligence of the people and they will be sure to resent it this year. They have linked 'protection and bimetalism' this time, but when the opportunity was offered by the populist senators to pass the Reed tariff bill with a free-silver amendment all but five republican senators repudiated the McKinley idea. Republican 'bimetalism' means the present gold-standard. That is the Sherman idea, and that sentiment will dominate the national republican convention. It will cost McKinley the nomination, although it now appears that he is far ahead in the race. The convention may nominate John Sherman. To me it is quite obvious that the republican party will not make the presidential fight this year on the tariff, and that disposes of the McKinley scoop on 'protection and bimetalism.'"

"It is not worth while to discuss the financial plank in the Ohio State platform," said Senator Peffer, "for it will never be heard of at St. Louis. Republican leaders understand the masses of the party too well to attempt another straddle on the silver question. They know that submission to further dodging and evasion of that question is a thing of the past. Are what amazes me is the effort and stupidity of the Kansas republican state convention in adopting a policy that every intelligent republican elsewhere renounces and repudiates. I know of no other instance in political movements where a convention abjectly defers its convictions on a great party question to a national convention. So far as I know such despicable political cowardice finds no precedent outside the action of the late Kansas republican convention. It is to the people's party advantage that it was done, but my state pride revolts at the humiliating spectacle." The senator has been quoted as saying that there is no chance for a people's party national victory until 1900. What he means by that statement is, the party is not strong enough to elect the President this year on its own account, but he does not concede the election of a gold-standard candidate against the united anti-gold sentiment of the country. On the contrary, he says, "if the silver forces can be united nothing is surer than the election of the silver candidate." He has had misgivings on this point, but in the light of current happenings they are rapidly disappearing. "The struggle is between the people and the politicians, and from all appearances now it makes little difference what candidates the two old party conventions nominate the revolution will go on with resistless force until it ends in the people's triumph."

"If Boies were a populist," observed Master Workman Sovereign, "he would make an ideal presidential candidate and sweep every state west of the Mississippi. I know him well," continued the vigorous and intrepid labor leader, "and, by the way, I understand he is almost, if not entirely, converted to populism. If true, it will make a strong accession to the people's party in the west and take Iowa out of the republican electoral column. If any change of party affiliation is in contemplation it will be made without any view to political aspirations. Boies is not that kind of a man. Unbending integrity and rugged honesty has made him the idol of the masses in Iowa, and his name and indorsement will add immensely to the people's party strength in all the west."

WANAMAKER FINED \$1000.

The Sanctified Republican a Criminal.

In the United States District Court, before Judge Butler, ex-Pastmaster-General John Wanamaker was recently convicted of violating a Federal law by importing alien labor, and was fined \$1,000. The Philadelphia newspapers ignored the case because they did not desire to hurt the feelings of such a heavy advertiser.

Past General Master Workman James A. Wright of the Knights of Labor, secured a transcript of the records of the trials which he read to the representatives of various trades-unions held Friday night at Ninth and Spring Garden streets. Resolutions denouncing Mr. Wanamaker were passed.

The board of directors of the Knights of Labor yesterday officially declared a boycott against Mr. Wanamaker. The officers of the Pennsylvania Trades League were asked by local members of that organization to take similar action. [No one has seen any account of this in the Nebraska dailies. If you want the news, take the Independent.]

What Irrigation Does.

Mr. Wilcox author of the little work entitled Irrigation Farming says:

"Irrigation means better economic conditions; means small farms, orchards and vineyards; more homes and greater comforts; more intelligence and knowledge applied to farming; more profit, more crops; more freight and more commerce. It means association in urban life instead of isolated farms; the occupation of small holdings; more telephones, telegraphs, good roads and swift motors; fruit and garden growths everywhere; schools in closer proximity; farm villages on every hand; and such general prosperity as can hardly be dreamed of by those who are not familiar with the results of even the present infancy of irrigation in America." Dr. Clark Gapey says: "Irrigation doubles and quadruples crops; it reclaims sandy wastes; it removes almost wholly the element of chance from farming operations."

Now that the beautiful snow is fast disappearing from our view, the welcome slush of the mud will greet our ears for a season.

## THE KANSAS POPULISTS

They Hold an Enthusiastic and Harmonious convention.

UNITED AND FULL OF FIGHT.

Taubeneck for the Omaha Platform and Against a Single plank.

They Were Interested in Principles and not in Candidates

HUTCHINSON, Kan., March 18.—On the surface at least peace and harmony prevailed among a majority of the delegates to the state populist convention before Chairman John W. Breidenthal of the state central committee rapped the gathering to order today.

It was given out that Secretary Breidenthal was extremely desirous that harmony prevail in the convention's proceedings and it was generally conceded that the Kansas leader of the populists would have his way. A conflict is possible, however, between the two elements having different views on the money question. One, headed by National Chairman Taubeneck, believes in the Omaha platform and is opposed to the single standard plank, and the other wants a platform making the money question the great issue, hoping to unite all the silver parties and silver elements of the old parties. There is scarcely no talk about presidential candidates.

Before the convention the delegates gathered in caucuses by congressional districts and agreed upon committees. The auditorium where the body met began to fill early, and long before 11 o'clock every delegate was in his seat. The intervening time was filled up by the band playing patriotic airs, which stirred the delegates to a high state of enthusiasm. Promptly at 11 o'clock Chairman Breidenthal rapped the convention to order using as a gavel a broken piece of fence rail (a suggestion of Abraham Lincoln) which brought forth renewed cheering.

After an address of welcome by Marion Watson, editor of the Hutchinson Bee, and a response by T. J. Hudson, Secretary Sample read the official call. D. C. Searcher of Johnson was made temporary secretary and Harris Kelley of Barber county and C. B. Hoffman of Dickinson nominated for temporary chairman. Here ensued a discussion over the method of appointing the committees, and finally a short recess was taken for the purpose of selecting the committeemen by districts.

Among these on the platform when the convention was called to order were H. E. Taubeneck, chairman of the national committee; J. H. McDowell of Tennessee, Rev. J. D. Botkin, T. J. Hudson and other prominent leaders of the party. When the convention reassembled in the afternoon, as the committees were not ready to report, the time was taken up in speaking, ex-Congressman Jerry Simpson, ex-Governor Lewelling and other leaders making brief remarks. Ex-Governor Lewelling enthused the audience to the highest pitch.

The report of the committee on resolutions put an end to further speechmaking. The convention unanimously and without debate adopted the platform reported, which is along the lines of the Omaha resolutions. It begins with an appeal to all opponents of the single gold standard to unite in state and nation in an alliance with the people's party and calls attention to the fact that a change from one old political party to another has made matters worse for the country; it favors economical government; demands the overthrow of trusts and the government ownership or control of public utilities; demands that power be taken from the president and secretary of the treasury to issue bonds; maintains that all money should be issued by the government; favors free coinage at 16 to 1, independent of other nations and concludes with a denunciation of trial of citizens by injunction or contempt proceedings without trial by jury.

After the adoption of the foregoing resolutions the business of the convention was quickly brought to a close. Delegates to the national convention at St. Louis were selected, apparently without strife. The convention was thoroughly harmonious and unusually enthusiastic. The delegates elected to the national convention at large are ex-Governor Lewelling, J. W. Breidenthal, W. A. Harris and Frank Doster. Eighty-eight of her delegates were chosen by congressional districts. They were practically solid for a union of all advocates of free silver upon a common ticket and are not decided upon any candidate, preferring to wait developments.

THE KANSAS PLATFORM.

It will be seen that while the following platform, which was recently adopted by the populist state convention of Kansas does not abandon any populist principle, nevertheless it is a declaration of principles mighty hard to attack.

First—We are in favor of the strictest honesty and economy in the administration of government of state and nation. Second—We are in favor of the overthrow and destruction of all monopolies and combines organized for the plunder and oppression of the people. Third—We demand strict and effective control and supervision by the government of all corporations performing public or quasi-public functions, and, if necessary to protect the public interests, the ownership by the government of all public utilities.

Fourth—We demand that the president and secretary of the treasury be deprived of the power to issue or sell bonds without the authority of congress being first given for each separate issue.

Fifth—We believe that all the money of the country, whether coin or paper, should be issued by the government, and not by corporations or individuals.

Sixth—We demand free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, independent of the action of any other nation. We believe that the United States is capable of maintaining such a financial system as will promote the prosperity of its own people without asking the consent of any other government.

Seventh—We demand that the constitutional right of trial by jury be extended to every form of action, whether civil or criminal, and we denounce the trial of our citizens by injunction and contempt proceedings without the right of a trial by jury as contrary to the spirit of our constitution.

## MEXICO'S PROSPERITY.

IT HAS AN EXPORT BOUNTY OF NEARLY A HUNDRED PER CENT.

Money Squeezed out of us by the Plutocrats is Invested in Mexico.

The following is taken from an article in the Arena by Judge Walter Clark. L. L. D. of the supreme court of North Carolina, who recently went to Mexico to study the effect of free coinage of silver in that country:

Americans attracted by the great prosperity prevailing in Mexico, are to be found everywhere and in every line of business, and even our capitalists, after forcing the public to pay two dollars in value for every dollar loaned by the government, are permanently doubling their capital by turning this money, squeezed out of the American taxpayers into Mexican dollars, at nearly two for one, and investing at par all through Mexico. Thus American enterprise and American capital are both flowing in a full tide into that country to build it up, while here capital is engaged in forcing the government to issue more bonds, that the interest received may find a safe and non-taxable investment, since enterprises are no longer as profitable in the United States as they were under the bimetallic standard. The exports of Mexico in 1895 were twenty millions of dollars but in 1892-3 they had increased to one hundred millions, and for 1896 it is estimated they will be over one hundred and fifty millions, while imports from the United States are falling off. Our gold dollar being convertible into two Mexican dollars is bringing in an enormous amount of capital from the United States for permanent investment in Mexico. It being unprofitable to send Mexican silver to the United States, it is being invested in new enterprises in Mexico thus aiding in the wonderful development and prosperity now obtaining in that country. Furthermore, many wealthy Mexicans having fixed incomes, formerly preferred to live abroad in the United States and elsewhere, but the depreciation of their silver incomes has driven them home where silver remains at par, and thus a not inconsiderable addition is made to the wealth of the country.

The price of labor in Mexico has always been absurdly low, owing to its quantity being in excess of the revenues for employment, but prosperity brought about by the causes above enumerated, and the manufacturing, railroads and other new enterprises are gradually creating a demand for labor, and slowly but surely raising the price of wages.

In drawing these lessons from the past experience and the present prosperity of Mexico, there are those who will say that Mexico is inferior to the United States in education, in civilization and in many other respects. To some extent this is true, and so much the worse for the objectors. For if Mexico, in spite of all these disadvantages, is prosperous and going forward by leaps and bounds with her standard of values maintained at the same point, so much greater is the damnation of the men who, notwithstanding our great and manifest superiority, have brought the blight and curse of a long enduring depression upon us by robbing the wealth producers in the interest of the wealth consumers through the device of doubling, by surreptitious legislation, the value of the dollars, and if Mexicans with three hundred and fifty years of priestly rule, a foreign yoke, and fifty more passed amid civil dissensions, could assert themselves and throttle the gigantic money power which oppressed them, what cannot and what will not, seventy-five millions of the foremost people on the earth be able to do when satisfied that they owe it to themselves and their prosperity to break the yoke which binds them.

They are Respectful now.

An Associated Press dispatch says: that Senator Allen was accorded a respectful hearing on the Dupont case, and at the close of his speech was congratulated by senator Turpie, who stated it was the cleverest presentation of the case yet made against Dupont. It was entirely legal in construction, and was without frills of any sort.

Sound Populist Sense.

We recommend in place of military drill in public schools such exercises as fire brigades, life-saving corps, manual, labor and mechanic bands, accidental relief companies. In these drills there will be more actual general exercise and the object would be constructive and not destructive; it would be to save life and property rather than the taking of life and the destruction of property.—The Peace-maker.

## THE POPS ON TOP AGAIN

A Senate Committee Favorably Reports a Plank of the Omaha Platform.

VOTE DIRECT FOR SENATORS.

Day by day Populism Advances in its Onward March.

Stand by the Guns and the World is Ours

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20.—The senate committee on privileges and elections this morning made a favorable report on the amendment to the constitution providing for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people. The report is very voluminous. Among other things it says:

"In the judgment of your committee, any movement that looks to the right of the people to be heard directly in the election of senators, cannot but result beneficially to all concerned. The adoption of this proposed amendment will in the judgment of your committee, bring the senate into more amicable relations with the people.

"It will remove prejudices now existing which are rapidly becoming deeply and dangerously fastened upon the public mind. It will invoke a spirit of mutual forbearance and respect as between the senate and the people, which unfortunately does not now exist to that degree that is desirable. It will restore confidence. It will tend to elevate the character, advance the dignity, increase the usefulness, extend the influence and justify magnificently the power of the senate and at the same time promote the welfare of all the people of the republic.

"The tendency of public opinion is to disparage the senate and depreciate its dignity; its usefulness, its integrity, its power. If there is any cause for this tendency in the public mind it should be removed without delay."

"One weighty and personal objection to the present system of electing senators by the legislatures of the respective states," the report continues, "is that the power and right of the individual voter are hedged about and circumscribed; his will is manacled; his volition paralyzed; he cannot vote for his choice. The present system is in practice, purpose and effect a declaration that for some occult reason, which is in no way made manifest, it is unsafe and prejudicial to the public interest to commit the election of senators to a vote of the people."

The committee points out that the material interests suffer by reason of protracted senatorial contests that are of frequent occurrence. Instances in New York, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Kentucky are cited.

Popular opinion has, the committee says, taken hold of the subject and the demand for this change is loud and emphatic. The belief in the public mind is rapidly gaining that proper reference is not given by the senate of the United States to the demands and interests of the people, and that is largely due to the fact that senators do not owe their positions to the people, who are permanent, but to the legislatures, which are transient.

In conclusion the committee says: "The people demand a voice in the election of senators and such demand in the judgment of your committee should be respected. So, whatever may be said to the contrary, whatever may be thought of the sanctity of the constitution as it stands, it must be admitted, by all that the people are becoming restive under its restraints on the right of those entitled under the constitution and laws to exercise the elective franchise. The movement of the people in the interest of the people on this, as on any other question, is stalwart and universal and the sooner this great fact is recognized by the representatives of the people the better."

## HOW THEY BEAT THE POPULISTS.

A Scrap of Evidence Shows the way the Goldites Counted Them out.

There has been quite an extended discussion in congress over the southern election of frauds. The following is a bit of evidence read in the house the other day. It is the testimony of a witness concerning the names of men returned as voting:

Q. Do you know Prince Hatcher?  
A. Yes, sir; he is a colored man and lives about one mile from me.  
Q. Did he vote on the 6th day of November last?  
A. I do not know positively, but I heard him say he did not register, and that he did not intend to vote.  
Q. Do you know Robert Hockabee?  
A. I did know him.  
Q. What has become of him?  
A. He is dead.  
Q. How long has he been dead?  
A. I think he died about the 1st of last September.  
Q. Do you know Starke Hunter?  
A. I used to know him.  
Q. How long ago?  
A. It has been about twelve years ago, I think.  
Q. Has he moved out of the country?  
A. He has moved to the cemetery.  
Q. How long is it since he took up his abode in that place?  
A. I think it has been about twelve years.

Well, now, he must have been a faithful democrat, because he struck to the party not only as long as he lived, but voted for the party twelve years after he died. [Great laughter.] I take it that he is not a Jeffersonian democrat, but an "organized democrat."

Q. Do you know Silas Jackson?  
A. I did know him once.  
Q. Well, what is the matter with him?  
A. He was moved to the cemetery four years ago.

P. Do you know a man living in River precinct by the name of Rufus Riggs?  
A. I used to know a man living there by that name, but he is dead. He was a colored man and died last year, in January, I think, in the early part of the year.

Q. Do you know James Wilkins, in that precinct?  
A. Yes, sir; there used to live a man there by that name.  
Q. What became of him?  
A. The last time I saw him he was swinging to the limb of a tree. He was lynched. That was some time in 1893.

[Thirty-one populists were honestly and fairly elected as members of the house in the south at the last election and counted out in just this way. Not one of them will be seated by this republican house. The counting out was done by the democrats, the keeping out will be done by the republicans.]

## HOW TO GET SUBSCRIBERS.

AN AGENT WANTED AT EVERY POSTOFFICE IN THE STATE.

Good Suggestions From a Practiced Pop.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT—I have read one or two of your papers and think it the best hot shot fired in the republican ranks I have seen. An independent friend wishes me to get you a club but the people have no money. I am an enthusiastic pop because of many reasons but of one that I well understand and that is railroads and the telegraph. The railroads of the country are sapping the life of the nation, but I hardly believe government ownership the thing. I believe that state ownership and government control of inter-state traffic would be the proper solution. There is too much of the nation's wealth in few hands now. The telegraph, I believe should be owned and operated by the federal government.

Pushing the circulation of independent papers will be slow and campaign money almost out of the question. The sale of reform books will be very slow. I know of no way in which the INDEPENDENT can largely increase its circulation than by appointing an agent at each postoffice to take subscriptions without money in advance and allow the subscriber to pay in part during the time his subscription runs. He can pay twenty-five cents or any amount during the year. He will be more anxious to pay after he has read the paper than before. A small amount at different times is not noticed, when to put up a dollar at once discourages the subscriber who says he does not want the paper, that being the easier way out of it.

If you have the capital to furnish a few papers in advance to each subscriber or I believe you could swell your circulation up into the thousands. There are very few who would refuse to pay and next fall they could pay in full. It is much better to have money due than none, if there is a good profit in the paper and there would be with a large list of subscribers.

All reformers all over the state I believe should exert their energies to spread the doctrine than to argue so much in their own ranks. Those in the ranks do not need the doctrines preached to them over and over again, so subscribers instead of writing a good article for the paper can best serve it by increasing its circulation. The editor can better than they, look after its pages.

I simply suggest this matter, you may have thought of it before and it may be impracticable. With a good agent to watch your interests at the postoffice, I see no reason why you should not have at least seventy-five subscribers at each postoffice and the larger offices in proportion. I do not think that any man but a blind partisan or a dead beat would refuse to pay for such a good paper before the year is out. The State Journal does this right along. There are 190,000 voters in the state, you should have half of these for subscribers. Yours Fraternally, A POPULIST.

Cathode Rays a Failure.

Today I lined up several of your leading politicians—republicans on one side and democrats on the other, and turned on the cathode rays, sixty volts strong, in hopes that I could secure a photograph showing the difference in principles of the two parties, but the new process is a failure.

The first plate showed them one and all standing together, each resembled the other each and were of the same shade, while each had his thumb on the end of his nose and was wriggling his fingers at the other and shouting, "Honest dollars, sound money," "sound money, honest dollars."  
I shifted the light, turned on 100 volts more and tried it again, but the picture was the same.  
It may be that this new process will be found of some use to the doctors, but to us farmers it is a humbug. We can't see any difference between "sound money and honest dollars" and "honest dollars and sound money," nor is there any difference between the two parties. —Ole Leghorn.