

THE OMAHA PLATFORM.

Some Improvement in the Wording Badly Needed.

OMAHA, Neb., June 18, 1896.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT:—Referring to your editorial last week "about platforms," I like your old populist who has been in the fight for monetary reform and who has written you in this matter. I too have been in the fight ever since Hugh McCullough in 1866 began burning up the greenbacks—"Lincoln's rage" (? and John Sherman in 1869 and 1870 strengthen the public credit "by making all lawful money" obligations of the United States payable in coin and by closing the mints to the coinage of silver in 1873, making coin mean gold only. That was thirty years ago, and I am always pleased with every word or sentence uttered by any of our leaders showing a true understanding of the money question and its importance. As said by the INDEPENDENT, "every person having a thorough and scientific understanding of the money question knows that all money is fiat money, made and unmade by law, and that the money plank in the Omaha platform is not only weak and ambiguous in language, but extremely unscientific in principle.

The demand for a national currency to be at the same time, "safe, sound and flexible," giving to the word flexible the bankers meaning of changeable, not relative to population and property as it should be, but as it may be to the interest or advantage of the bankers and creditor classes is utterly fallacious. A money or currency made "flexible" in this sense can never be safe or sound and vice versa. The desideratum in money, whatever its substance, is fixity of value relatively to population, amount of taxes and property.

So is the system as at present of the government as a warehousekeeper or loan agency issuing certificates to circulate as money on deposit or hypothecation of gold, silver and bonds, worse than an absurdity, as would be the extension of the system to include land or "non-perishable farm and other products" as proposed by the so-called subsidiary scheme in the Omaha platform. But for the saving clause, "or some better plan" this declaration for the government to issue all money would be utterly indefensible, as every thoroughly informed populist knows and has known for the last forty years.

The only just and scientific way of issuing money is by the government paying it out on account of services rendered by the individual for the public. Any promise to pay money, whether issued by the government or through banks, for the purpose of circulating in lieu of or as money, should never be tolerated. Neither should the government issue any kind of denomination of money limited in legal tender form, as the greenback, fractional silver etc. It is a humbug and robbery.

I enclose I send you a copy of my platform on the money question written as explained for the Douglas county populist central committee.

We would like very much to have it published in the INDEPENDENT for consideration and amendment if possible by the "sound money" populists of the state. We believe it is vitally important that the party should get together on some amendment to this plank in our platform if possible before convention day.

Let us have a free and friendly discussion of the subject. I would especially like to hear from the old-time populist who has written you in the matter. Respectfully and sincerely yours for sound money.

JOHN JEFFCOAT.

The following is the draft of a money plank referred to by Mr. Jeffcoat:

Proposed amendment of the people's party national platform for 1896:

Money—Whereas, The constitution of the United States, as interpreted by the supreme court says: "Congress shall have exclusive power to declare what shall be money, to coin and print the same and regulate the value thereof," and Whereas, The power to issue and regulate the value of money is the most powerful instrumentality on earth for the weal or woe of a nation of people, and Whereas, as held by all political economists, and demonstrated by all past experience, the only means by which the value of money is or can be regulated is by regulating the volume, relatively, and

Whereas, Money, upon whatsoever expressed, is wholly a creation of legal sovereignty—a forced acceptance—is and should be exclusively a national institution. We therefore demand:

1. The immediate retirement of all private bank issues of credit money—of substitutes for money.

2. That all money shall be issued by the general government only, and made equally a full legal tender and receivable for all debts and dues, both public and private.

3. As a concession to the barbarian notion of commodity value in money, we demand the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver, of all denominations, at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, regardless of the action of any other nation.

4. As the basis for a scientific and invariable measure of values in exchange, and for the preservation of equities in deferred payments and time contracts and between taxpayers and taxreceivers, also as a solution of the tariff question, and protection of the people of the United States from the effects of foreign competition for metallic money, we demand the issue by the general government of a full legal tender inconvertible paper money, also receivable for all dues to the government, said money to be issued direct in payment for all kinds of public services and public improvements, also in redemption at par for all kinds of paper notes or money issued by the United States and now outstanding, including national bank notes, as the same shall be surrendered, under laws to enforce the same.

To restore equities destroyed by past destruction of greenbacks and limitation of the coinage of silver, new issue of money to bear the ratio of not less than \$6 per capita per annum, exclusive of the amounts issued in redemption of all kinds of other paper money and notes, and the aggregate of all money in circulation in the United States, including gold and silver, shall cease and no more shall be issued, only as it shall be necessary to add to the volume of money, as metal money may be exported, and to keep pace with the increase in population and maintain the volume of money always equal to \$50 per capita.

Union Not Fusion.

WEEPING WATER, June 17, 1896.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT: While I am not a populist I have voted the ticket ever since the party was organized. While I claim no right to advise in the councils of the party, my position entitles me to a little friendly chat with you. Gibson was a good brother. Nevertheless I was delighted when he left the editorial chair and you took his place. His mode of reform even if true is not practical and will not be for 100 years.

I imagine you will go to St. Louis. I beg of you to contrive some way to unite the silver forces without fusion or the compromise of the party. If it can be done we can whip the scoundrels into some appearance of decency and open the way for a crushing blow upon other abuses.

I joined the abolitionists in 1833. I was a member of the convention that decided to form the liberty party. It was not my privilege to be at Warsaw when it was organized, but I fought in its ranks till it was absorbed by the free soil party. I did not act with that party. Martin Van Buren stunk so I could not. When Fremont was nominated I voted the ticket and continued to do so till 1860 when I identified myself with the republican party.

So much about myself in explanation and justification of what I am about to say.

The republicans formulated a platform and nominated a ticket that united in action all the anti-slavery forces. Can't we learn something from their course? Their platform amounted to little, but it repelled no enemy of slavery. Their first candidate was the son-in-law of a slave holder. Their second candidate went no farther than to say "This country cannot remain half slave and half free." "That if he could save the country without abolishing slavery he would do it. That if he could save the Union by abolishing slavery he would abolish it."

Now suppose the democrats should have sense enough to nominate Teller, Bryan, Boies or even Tillman? Would we not be a set of fools not to nominate them as our own candidates? Could we not do this without jeopardizing the integrity or solidity of our own party? Can't we flank these proslavery fellows on the silver question and when we get them on the run hoist the old flag and sing the

REQUIREMENT:

"John Brown's body lies mouldering in the grave" "But his soul is marching on."

I leave the matter with younger men. But Oh! how it would rejoice my eyes to see this new slave power ground to powder before the grave closes over them.

E. S. GILBERT.

FREE SILVER FRAUDS.

The Gold Plank of the Republican Party Ends Them.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 18, 1896.—(Special to the INDEPENDENT.)—Political gossip which has been afloat in Washington for the past few weeks, and which has been supplemented during the last few days by telegraphic information in the daily papers from the advance guard of the republican national convention at St. Louis, shows clearly that there is a certain class of free silver republicans who are earnestly appealing to the gold men to hoo-doo them. It is that class of republicans who have silver constitutions, but who are not silver men themselves except in name. They claim to be free silver men, and, out of fear of their constituents, are forced to vote for a free coinage measure every time it comes before congress. But they have been begging the managers of the republican national convention to arrange some kind of a straddling platform, which they would know, of course, meant they hoped to fool their constituents and hold them in line in the coming campaign. We have referred to this class of silver republicans in a former letter.

They are the silver men who are monopolists and who vote with the gold bugs and monopolists on every question except that of free silver. In short, they are gold bugs at heart; they are hypocrites of the most dangerous kind as far as the interests of the people are concerned, but, on the other hand, they are the most valuable agents of the gold ring. They act, as it were, as attorneys for the gold ring, and use their influence to fool the silver voters and get them to vote to elect a gold bug like McKinley for president. This stripe of politician is to be found in both parties, and they are the curse and bane of American politics. A large number of men of this stripe are now representing silver constituencies in both the house and the senate. We take this means of warning their constituents that, as long as they send such men to congress, or trust to and follow the leadership of such men in political campaigns, they can never expect to get relief or see any better times.

Fervidly Patriotic.

The fervidly patriotic firm of Heidelberg, Ickleheimer & Co., continues to withdraw gold from the treasury of the United States. They are very much interested in the gold standard, are Mr. Heidelberg and Mr. Ickleheimer. They have accumulated an immense fortune by the simple process of withdrawing gold from the treasury. When the gold is withdrawn Mr. Grover Cleveland issues bonds and fills the treasury up again. When Mr. Daniel Manning was alive he declared that he would pay out silver dollars to the Heidelberg and the Ickleheimers of his day. But things are different now. The republican platform declares for gold and Heidelberg, Ickleheimer & Co. withdraw the gold. Others interested in this game are Mr. Bleicher, Mr. Heimerdingen, Mr. Rothchild, Mr. Lodenburg, Mr. Lichtenberger and other distinguished gentlemen too numerous to mention. This is indeed a golden age.—Twentieth Century.

It Does Not.

ASHTON, June 19, 1896.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT:—Will you please answer the following question in your paper. Does this government give a bounty or rebate for any article manufactured and reported from this country?

A. SUBSCRIBER.

MUSIC IN THE AIR.

Nebraska Politics at the State House.

The School Fund, Penitentiary Appointment and Some Other Things.

Every mail brings a cartload of republican papers to Secretary of State Piper's office. They are marked copies containing "puffs" of the head of the Alma A. P. A. leader. Piper is shrewd. By the outrageous action of the late disgraceful session of the legislature, taking away from the governor the authority to name the papers in which the constitutional amendments should be published, and placing it with the secretary of state, Piper becomes a political dictator of considerable consequence. The republican papers are filled with laudatory articles of him, and the newspaper boys should not be blamed for he has the distribution of \$90,000 worth of printing. He it was who influenced the committee to have an early convention called. He knows that when the printing is placed, and four out of five republican papers are disappointed, there will be music in the air. He was very wise to get the convention called before the designation of newspapers is made, but now another trouble is confronting him. There is no other candidate for his office in the field, and it occurred to the fertile mind of Harlan county's boss office-holder that some one might move to make his nomination unanimous. Before the chairman could put the motion, some evil-minded delegate, who had not the interests of the A. P. A. secretary at heart, might move to amend the motion so as to include Churchill, Russell, and Corbett. That would mean a row at once, and the result might be a clean sweep of the present officials. It is probable that the secretary will induce some sacrificing friend to consent to be placed in nomination first, and then, after Piper's name is put forward, a roll call can be started or the vote can be had *voce viva*. By no means will the shrewd Piper allow himself to be drawn into the whirlpool in which the political aspirations of his less fortunate associates may go down.

Enemies of Attorney-General Churchill do not attempt to ridicule him. He is too dense to understand. His nomination was a fluke and his election an accident. The people did not know him. Now his own county wants to discard him, and he will come into the state convention trusting his chances of election to those who have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with him. He is not making an active canvass upon his prohibition record in Iowa, and he isn't saying a word about the indictment hanging over him for embezzling funds while living in that state. Churchill is not a success as a lawyer, and has no reputation to boast of as a gentleman, but he can beat the world telling war stories. Speaking of the battle of Lookout mountain to a confiding listener a few days ago, the "general" pulled up like a huge toad and declared that he had some narrow escapes there.

"One bullet grazed my head, cutting a furrow from forehead to crown, as straight as if parted," declared the bombastic, sensational story-teller from Iowa. "It stunned me for a moment, but I was up and at 'em again in a minute. Another ball cut off one side of my mustache, slick and clean, and didn't draw a drop of blood. One bullet cut through my clothing at one side of my breast, grazed the skin, and went out at the other side. In all there were fifty-seven bullet holes in my clothing when the fight was over. Yes, it was a hot time."

Told before an average republican convention, that story ought to be worth several score of votes. The "general" is not clever, yet he does know enough not to tell the delegates to the state convention that he pockets half the salary of his stenographer. If the accusation were made against him he could easily defend himself by saying that Russell takes a large share of the pay of the girl clerks in his office, and that some of the young ladies in Piper's office receive little more than half the sums appropriated for their pay. These deductions are not for campaign expenses. These unconscionable officers are simply turning into their pockets the money appropriated by the legislature for other purposes. It is embezzlement of state money and nothing less.

Will Summers, deputy attorney-general for several terms, may be a candidate before the convention. Mr. Summers was nominated by the republican convention two years ago, but just to keep in practice some A. P. A. cappers, including the secretary, stole the nomination from him by miscounting the votes cast. On account of his intimate acquaintance with the duties of the office Summers was retained by Churchill until the legislative session was over. Then trouble arose because Summers in the absence of his chief, opened A. P. A. letters addressed to the attorney-general, and also because he was too closely acquainted with some very questionable dealings of Mr. Churchill's in relation to the penitentiary appropriation and some other transactions. So Summers was bounced, and, if he makes a fight in the convention for the nomination, the county precincts may follow the example set by the attorney-general's home county.

"Search the state of Nebraska from Falls City to Chadron, from Benkelman to Ponca, and a man more devoid of the elements which would commend him to his fellow men than the present land commissioner could not be found. Without regard for truth, possessing neither integrity of action nor honesty of purpose, Russell has exerted his every energy since taking charge of the office to calumniate Governor Holcomb, not forgetting incidentally to foist upon the state certain individuals of doubtful antecedents, who have drawn money for questionable services."

This arraignment of the man who will be renominated by the republican convention for commissioner of public lands and buildings, is in the words of a state house official. It is to be hoped that nothing will occur to prevent the renomination of Churchill, for his record is so valuable that it will not only assure his defeat, but will give strength to the entire populist ticket.

Douglas county will present the name of a farmer, Mr. Willi, ms, for commissioner, and Hastings has started a boom

for Dr. A. S. Pierce.

When Mrs. Notson drowned herself and her two little children in the Missouri river because Superintendent of Public Instruction Corbett refused to appoint her as his deputy, the urbane "professor's" chances of succeeding himself became small. His statements of the cause of the unfortunate woman's disappointment sealed his fate. Poor Mrs. Notson traveled all over Nebraska during the campaign on transportation provided by Corbett, and gained considerable strength for the republican candidate by explaining that a vote for him was equivalent to one cast for her, as he had promised to make her his deputy in the event of his election. The appointment of Barton as deputy, the drowning of Mrs. Notson and her children, the frantic unavailing efforts of Corbett to extricate himself from the unenviable position in which he was placed, form a story well known to all Nebraskans.

Corbett's defeat is unquestioned. He will be nominated by the republicans, and will get a taste of the disappointment experienced by poor Mrs. Notson. Encumbered with Russell, Churchill, Piper and Corbett, the republican ticket cannot be called a strong one, it matters not who is nominated to fill the other places. Whether the ticket is headed by Hayward, the chief attorney of the state house thieves and boodling state officers and the choice of the Burlington coterie of political dictators, by Union Pacific McCall, or Meiklejohn, the shoes, the silk tie and the blaze attire, the result will be the same.

IT HAS TURNED TRAITOR.

And the Republican Party Should Take Another Name.

Judge Henry C. Caldwell who was appointed to the bench by Lincoln says in the Denver News that:

"The republican party was organized by the people and for the people. Its members are justly proud of its early achievements. It nominated and elected Abraham Lincoln president of the United States on a platform that was a second Declaration of Independence. Its very utterance was in vindication of the rights of the people, and it did this, not in pursuance of telegraphic orders from the bankers of Wall street, but against their vehement protest. Lincoln never would have been elected, and slavery never would have been abolished if the bankers of Wall street could have their way.

"Then, as now, there were those who demanded that the rights of man should be subordinated to the supposed interests of capital. After the lapse of thirty odd years those who represent aggregated capital and greed have achieved their purpose—have captured the republican party and swung it clean away from the faith and principles of its founders, and are now attempting to make the party name and its splendid record in the past serve the base purpose of suppressing and despoiling the producers and laborers of the land, for the benefit of aggregated capital in all its forms.

"This spoliation is successfully accomplished through the agency of the gold standard, to the support of which the St. Louis convention has irrevocably pledged the republican party. When it made that pledge it ceased to be the republican party of the past, and ought in all honesty and fairness to have surrendered its name and taken one more befitting its new principles."

Safety for Depositors.

ED. INDEPENDENT:—It seems to me that this time is the most critical for the safety of our American republic than any time since we rebelled against tyranny of King George III.

Today the same power has our institutions by the throat and have put in nominations, men who will carry out the will of that power if elected. It now behooves all who favor reform issues to get into line on a platform. I think the following with forty-three words will suffice. Will it suit you readers? If so say so. If not why not?

PLATFORM. We favor free coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of sixteen to one. We oppose the present national banking system but favor a banking system in which the government guarantees safety to the depositors. We favor the initiative and referendum.

Yours for the salvation of this republic. J. Y. M. SWIGART.

Gold Bug Tax System.

I, David Gore, auditor of public accounts of the state of Illinois, do hereby certify that the statement of property assessed in Cook county for the year 1894, filed in this office in pursuance of law, shows among other personal property assessed in said Cook county for the year A. D. 1894, the following, viz: Agricultural tools, implements and machinery, \$84,392; money of bankers, brokers, etc., \$49,925; credits of banks, bankers, brokers, etc., \$10,000. The above items show all the property assessed under headings herein set forth.

Witness my hand and official seal, DAVID GORE, Auditor of public works.

The Schulte Publishing Company will send to any of our readers mentioning the name of THIS PAPER a copy of "The Condition of the American Farmer" on receipt of a two-cent stamp to pay for postage, etc. 3 ct

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Half Rates—Special Silver Train and a Daylight Run.

Sunday a. m., July 5th, 8 o'clock, via the Elkhorn-Northwestern line, a silver train, gaily and appropriately decorated, will leave Lincoln carrying the Hon. W. J. Bryan, the Bryan club, the free silver delegates, their wives and their friends to Chicago. This train will be first-class in every particular, will make fast time, and the daylight run will enable people to see the finest portions of Iowa and Illinois while traveling over the greatest railroad in the west. One fare for the round trip will be charged. For further information call on or address as below: A. S. Fielding, C. T. A., S. A. Mosher, Gen'l Agt., 117 So. 10th St. Lincoln, Nebraska.

If you read this paper and like it, send your subscription at once to the INDEPENDENT PUB. Co., Lincoln, Neb.

NEBRASKA NEWS.

Wild fruit is plentiful in Dawson county.

Bloomington has a gun club of eleven members.

It is reported that Winside is to have a creamery.

Cedar county people want township organization.

Juniata will celebrate the Fourth in a proper manner.

A postoffice has been established at Buffalo, Dawson county.

It is becoming popular in York to build sidewalks of brick.

Forty men and boys are at work in the best fields near York.

Tramps are very plentiful along the main line of the Union Pacific.

Falls City people think they have the best ball team in the state.

Harrison is becoming a popular wool market for northwestern sheep raisers.

Many fields of wheat and oats near Gibbon are badly mottled with wild mustard.

Alma has an amateur dramatic club that is claimed to be equal to the professionals.

The Rocky Mountain grasshoppers are doing some damage to crops in Deuel county.

Evangelist Rozelle has made arrangements to drive sin out of Norfolk. The harvest is ready.

The army worms are rapidly dying from old age, and the mischief they have done in the state.

The South Omaha Tribune thinks it would be the proper caper to have a gambling house inspector.

The people of Loup City are considering a proposition to build a new school house to cost \$7,000.

Five members of Rev. Mitchell's family of Franklin, including Mr. Mitchell, are down with typhoid fever.

The Dawson county teachers' institute will be held at Lexington beginning July 13 and continuing for two weeks.

Harold Miles, an old Beatrice boy, has passed a creditable examination and entered the naval academy at Annapolis.

The 5th annual reunion of the veterans of Cherry, Keys Paha and Rock counties will be held at Newport, July 2 to 4 inclusive.

The next quarterly convention of the Sherman county Sunday school association will be held at Litchfield about September 1.

Scrofula

Manifests itself in many different ways, like goitre, swellings, running sores, boils, salt rheum and pimples and other eruptions. Scarcely a man is wholly free from it, in some form. It clings tenaciously until the last vestige of scrofulous poison is eradicated from the blood by Hood's Sarsaparilla. Thousands of voluntary testimonials tell of suffering from scrofula, often inherited and most tenacious, positively, perfectly and permanently cured by

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The One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. \$1. Prepared only by C. L. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

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The Nebraska Mutual, Fire and Cyclone Ins. Co.

Is four years old. Has nearly a million at risk. Has sustained nearly \$1,000 in losses. Insurance has cost the Members only \$4.50 for \$1,000. Who can afford to lay awake worrying when \$1.12½ has been the cost for carrying \$1,000 for one year against a Nebraska blizzard. Remember our fees are but \$3.00 for \$1,000 and 10c for each additional \$100.

ADDRESS

J. Y. M. SWIGART,

SECRETARY,

Agents Wanted. Lincoln, Neb.

Hit It. Wherever a combie raises its head, and high moral emotion can't split it; We're sure to be laid and skinned to the red. Hail off with your ballots and hit it. Hit it all at once, hit it! The ballot's the matter to split it. We'll hit it, hit it, hit it. We'll hit it together. Nor stop to see whether We smash the old thing when we hit it. Oh, there's the high end of the great whiskey trust. Red-lighted as hell-fire has hit it! Now, ready! draw ballots all handle your maillets. And just everlastingly hit it. Chorus. The Anglo-American gold standard skull. Bit off at the end, as fate bit it; The head that is full of the bond-grabber's pull— Let every American hit it. Chorus. And there is the horrible coal oil combine. Against all the world you can hit it. The world-wide octopus that's certain to rope us— We must raise our ballots and hit it. Chorus. There's trust's daddy, the national banks, With Rothschild's skull-cap to fit it; But millions of cranks will first return thanks And then everlastingly hit it. Chorus.

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Republicans and Trusts. The complete abandonment of republican principles by the St. Louis convention is shown by the fact that in the whole of the long platform there adopted there is not one word against monopolies and trusts, or in favor of regulating interstate railway traffic of the country in a way to protect the rights of the individuals and localities from the injustice and oppression which is now perpetrated upon them. JUDGE CALDWELL. Consumers Purchasing agency, will buy anything you want at cheapest possible price. D. CLEM DEAYER, Room 9 Granite blk., Omaha, Neb.

Free Silver Train.

The state and local committees having in charge transportation facilities to the Chicago democratic convention have arranged with the North-Western line, the "official route" to run special trains to Chicago, one leaving Lincoln Sunday, July 5th, at 8 o'clock a. m. via the F. E. & M. V. R'y. This will be distinctly a free silver train, and we want all free silver men aboard, regardless of politics. It is our intention to make a day run of it through Iowa and Illinois. This train will be properly decorated, creditable to Lincoln and all Nebraska. It will be equipped with every convenience and will connect at Fremont with other trains from all parts of the northern Nebraska and at the Mo. river with delegations from Omaha and the entire state. Call on or write any of the following named gentlemen for full information, and arrange to all go together on this train. Mr. Bryan will go with us, and we want you all to help us make the free silver Lincoln train a success. Charles Jones, P. Barton, O. W. Palm, H. M. Leavitt, J. A. O'Shea, Dr. L. W. Edwards, transportation committee.

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