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LETTERS STILL ROLL IN

The Five Populist Governors Endorse Our Position.

B. O. FLOWER OF THE ARENA.

Senators-elect Harris and Heitfeld, Gen. James G. Field and Many Others.

THE GOVERNOR OF KANSAS.

I am not in favor of abandoning the discussion of the free coinage of silver. I regard this as one of the cardinal principles of the cause which we champion. In my judgment, we should "fight it out on this line if it takes all summer," or many other summers to follow. The times seem to me to be propitious. The stars in their course are bound to fight for us. The present financial system cannot possibly bring relief to our people. That they should turn from a gold standard to bimetalism is an absolute necessity, as certain to occur as is the republic to stand.

However, I do not feel that we must abandon other cardinal principles. We have freed the states of Kansas and Nebraska from the domination of railroad corporations, and we propose to keep them free until people understand that these commonwealths are not governed by railroad corporations, but by the people who live within their borders.—J. Wheedy.

THE GOVERNOR OF NEBRASKA.

The first declaration of our party platform adopted at St. Louis last year demands a national currency, safe and sound, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people and through the lawful disbursements of the government.

The next paragraph demands "the free and unrestricted coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1 by the United States without waiting for the consent of foreign nations."

The closing paragraph is in these words: "While the foregoing propositions constitute the platform upon which our party stands, and for the vindication of which its organization will be maintained, we recognize that the great and pressing issue of the pending campaign upon which the present presidential election will turn is the financial question, and upon this great and specific issue between the parties we cordially invite the aid and co-operation of all organizations and citizens agreeing with us upon this vital question."

I endorse every word of that document. I stand squarely upon the platform of the peoples party. Nor am I ready to abandon the chief issue upon which our party has been builded. Disloyalty to the St. Louis platform is disloyalty to our party and its principles. Let every true populist buckle on his armor and stand firm for every principle we advocate. Sound the slogan and let no man listen for the call to retreat from any one of our principles, much less the free coinage of silver.

The enemies of reform and of the money of the people have doubtless been much cheered by expressions from prominent populists advocating an abandonment of the great issue upon which we fought corporate greed and influence in the last campaign. The populist party is responsible for the great sentiment of the people in favor of free coinage. Shall we now tell them that we were insincere or that we do not believe in what we have for years advocated? Or shall we say to them that free coinage is a step toward the achievement of other reforms we advocate and which will follow in its wake?

Let us be honest to ourselves and the people and never abandon this fight until victory is won. It takes years to educate the people upon any reform issue. Free coinage is better known and better understood than any other of the great principles we espouse and neither the machinations of goldbugs nor the puerile prattlings of misguided men who have fought with us should avail to turn our attention from the chief plank of our party platform.

Let us be plain in our advocacy of the St. Louis platform, reasonable and fair to all men, and the national convention of 1900 will be a gathering of the dominant party of this nation.—Silas A. Holcomb.

THE GOVERNOR OF WASHINGTON.

You are right. The money question in its entirety is the principal issue before the American people. The fortress which the people must assault and capture is the entrenched position occupied by the plutocracy. The outlook which at this time commands the entrance is the recently constructed gold standard. The people are sufficiently educated to comprehend this fact. For the assault upon the gold standard we can command a majority of the people and shall infallibly be successful in the next attempt. To abandon the attack upon the enemy's most vulnerable position, upon which too, we can concentrate our greatest force, would be an example of criminal folly without equal in modern political warfare. For the honest and misguided people who urge it I have sympathy and compassion. For the shrewd and designing traitors who are willing thus to imperil the cause of human liberty I have nothing but opposition and hate.

Not that silver is all for which we fight. It is not. It is but an outer gate. But if multitudes are ready to assist us in opening that gate, if thousands upon thousands stand ready and avow them-

selves as anxious to go with us part of the way toward the attainment of a better financial system, why should we rudely repulse them as unworthy co-workers? And who can say that, having taken that first step those whom we now may be disposed to consider as laggards in the fight may not, when once fully enlisted, become more valiant soldiers than any of us who in the past have borne the heat and burden of the day? Was ever popular cause strengthened by driving away those who were disposed to be of assistance? And are we not in all popular government afloat upon the open sea of public approval, necessitating for success a nearly unanimous confidence in measures proposed? Is not public opinion in our day the power behind the throne greater than the throne itself? Can any abuse long continue to stand against the combined thought of a large majority of our people? Is not this true of all intelligent peoples? Was not even the despotic German emperor, in full possession of imperial powers, obliged to call a halt when it was seen that the German people, or a majority of them opposed his will in the matter of socialist repression?

And when it is perceived by the enemy that our next assault, made upon the same lines as the one recently and barely repulsed, must surely succeed, who that has the cause at heart can sit idly by when crazy egotists and black hearted traitors are endeavoring to divide our forces and dissipate our energies by leading us to abandon the line of attack which insures success?

To look at the matter philosophically, is it not true that the forces harmful to man in a political way are obliged from the nature of the case to oppose their whole power to the slightest inroad made or attempted to be made upon their position? To illustrate: When the republican party in 1860 carried the country upon a party which declared the slavery question, simply and only for non-extension of slavery, it did not propose to take away any right which the slave propagandists had exercised to any extent. It not only did not attack slavery where it existed, but tacitly agreed to protect and maintain it in the slave states. But the slave powers saw clearly and intuitively that if the slightest step was taken in the line of limiting their privileges, their institution in its entirety was at stake. They then said among themselves, and I was then in the south and often heard this from their speakers, "we are stronger now to oppose this first step against us than we ever can be again if we allow this movement to be successful." For this reason, and not because they expected immediate harm to come to them, they resolved to fight. And they were right in their judgment of the situation. The whole fight must inevitably have been fought at that time, or a tame surrender made.

The situation today bears many points of resemblance to that of 1860. Our "middle of the roaders" are in precisely the same attitude with regard to the Bryan forces as that occupied by the then newly formed republican party. The abolitionists were very much dissatisfied with the republicans and regarded them as little better than traitors. They had begun the agitation for the immediate abolition of slavery. The republicans had gradually given up this and in the eyes of the abolitionists were guilty of trading away the reform, which they had championed for thirty years. The slave was not to be liberated; he was to remain a slave, and even Lincoln had pronounced against abolitionism. In short, nobody then seemed to see that the south was to be obliged to fight for the life of the peculiar institution upon a field where its case was weakest and that of the north set forth in the strongest possible light. The issue was really, and at the bottom, the slavery question, but to the north it was made to appear as a fight for national life. In no other guise could the war have been sustained or successfully prosecuted.

Today the real question before the people of this country is the demand of a favored few to control the volume of money and by means of this little understood but enormous power to acquire a more than imperial mastery over all exchange and all production. The people at large do not comprehend this question and its overmastering and supreme importance. They cannot be made to understand it in its fullness before it will be too late. But their eyes are open to the importance of a restoration of silver. They can be marshalled and led to victory upon the silver line; upon any other I have little hope of success. For silver we can all be united in overwhelming phalanx. Here the enemy is weakest, and yet, following the line of necessity, plutocracy will be obliged on this field to contest the whole matter between special privilege on the one hand and the rights of man on the other.

Brethren, let us fight it out on this line if it takes a good many summers.—J. R. Rogers.

THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH DAKOTA

I cordially endorse your opposition to any deviation from the lines of the last contest. The peoples party has been the first friend and enthusiastic advocate of bimetalism during the last six years. Through its influence upon public opinion the democratic party was reorganized under the leadership of honest bimetalists. The late campaign was fought on the silver issue, but the question was not by any means settled. The issue in the next campaign will be the same as in the last unless, contrary to expectation, the republicans succeed in establishing genuine international coinage on the present ratio. But inasmuch as the republicans claim that tariff and not money is the paramount question, we cannot recede from our position on the silver question until the tariff fraud has been exposed by full trial, unless we are prepared to admit that we were

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THE GULF RAILROAD.

Committee to be Appointed to Investigate the Feasibility of State Aid.

Governor Holcomb on Tuesday afternoon sent the following communication to the House and Senate:

Executive Chamber, Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 23.—To the Senate and House of Representatives—Gentlemen: I beg to transmit herewith for your consideration a concurrent resolution passed by the legislature of the state of Kansas, and which has been forwarded to me by his excellency, the governor of that state for the purpose of being presented to you. I need hardly say that I am heartily in sympathy with any movement tending to cheapen transportation rates to the seaboard, and am of the opinion that the object sought to be accomplished by a conference such as is contemplated by this resolution would go far toward accomplishing this most desired result. It is a matter of the greatest importance to every producer and consumer throughout the state that the products for exportation and importation should be taxed for land transportation for the shortest possible distance.

It would seem to me to be but the exercise of ordinary business prudence for our people to take such action as would tend to divert traffic to the nearest point of export and import. That we should be compelled to pay transportation charges for a distance of 1,500 miles to the Atlantic seaboard when equal facilities could be had at points one-half the distance, is a great hardship and injustice to our people. If charges of transportation were just and equitable for the shorter distance, it would result in a perceptible increase in the market prices of products we export, and a decrease in those articles imported for our consumption. The people of the great central west should be relieved from those excessive burdens by prompt and vigorous steps, looking toward the securing of reasonable land transportation rates to our nearest deep water harbor.

SILAS A. HOLCOMB, Governor.

The following is the resolution passed by the state of Kansas. Undoubtedly a similar one will be passed by the Nebraska legislature:

Whereas, the citizens of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas have for many years endeavored to secure cheaper transportation of their products to the sea coast, and for that purpose have voted large subsidies to aid in the construction of north and south lines of railroads, and

Whereas, the government of the United States has expended \$6,000,000 to establish a deep water harbor at the city of Galveston, and

Whereas, the influences of eastern corporations seem to have dominated in fixing rates to the southern seaboard, 500 miles away, and making them practically the same as those to the Atlantic seaboard, 2,000 miles away, and

Whereas, the governor of Kansas, in his message to the legislature of Kansas, suggests a remedy for this discrimination the consideration of an interstate railroad to tide water in the south, now, therefore be it

Resolved, By the senate of the state of Kansas, the house of representatives concurring therein, that the legislature of Kansas immediately request of the states of Texas, Nebraska, and the territory of Oklahoma, to join with us in the appointment of a committee of conference, to be composed of citizens of said state and territory, whose duty it shall be to advise ways and means to obtain relief for the exorbitant freight rates now in effect to the seaboard on the south.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of this committee to ask the assistance of the interstate commerce commission and board of railroad commissioners of said states and territory in procuring for the citizens of said states and territory just and equitable freight rates, and if necessary, as a last resort, to consider the propriety of building an interstate railroad to the Gulf of Mexico.

Resolved, That the governor of the state be requested to transmit immediately under the seal of the state of Kansas, certified copies of these resolutions to the governors of the states of Texas and Nebraska and territory of Oklahoma with the request that the same be transmitted to their respective legislatures for consideration.

This is certainly a business proposition. If by this means the state of Nebraska could raise the price of corn alone one cent a bushel it would mean a saving to the state on the crop of 1896 of \$2,890,000. This would build several miles of railroad.

GOVERNMENT AID.

The Committee in the U. S. Senate to Recommend an Increase of \$75,000.

Senator Allen has secured a promise from the committee having in charge the appropriation of government aid to the trans-Mississippi exposition to make a favorable report increasing the amount of the appropriation from \$200,000 to \$275,000. The amendment will be attached to the sundry civil bill, \$25,000 to be for an addition to the cost of the building and \$50,000 for exhibits.

INVESTIGATE STATE OFFICES.

Committee of Five to be Appointed With Full Power to Examine The Records.

The special committee on investigation as to the condition of the finances of the

several state offices submitted a report on Wednesday morning recommending "that a permanent committee of investigation be appointed consisting of five members," two from the senate and three from the house with full power to make the investigation, the said committee to be required to report its findings to the legislature if in session otherwise to the governor of the state. The committee introduced a bill to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to defray the expenses of the investigation, the money to be placed under the control of the governor, and not paid out except with his approval. The committee to be appointed has power to prosecute in the manner it deems best, one and all of the defaulting state officials. It is probable that criminal prosecution will be commenced within a short time.

FIXED THE AMOUNT

In a Night Session the House Declares for \$100,000

The House of Representatives after a discussion of two days and a night decided to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to aid the trans-Mississippi exposition, and for the purpose of making a proper display of Nebraska's resources. Many speeches and arguments were made on both sides, and it was 1 o'clock before the final vote was reached. The contest has been long and in some respects bitter and had it not been for the fact that the government had appropriated money to aid the exposition and other states signified their intention to do so and the additional fact that the big show was to be held in this state no appropriation could have been made.

The condition of the state finances are such that the opponents of the bill insisted that the necessary expenses of the state should be provided for before the state commenced to show business. It was shown that the amount of appropriation to be recommended by the committee on finance, ways and means and the claim committee would exceed by over \$400,000 the amount of revenue that could be collected under the constitutional provision that the levy cannot exceed 7½ mills on the dollar of assessed valuation. It was shown further that with \$2,000,000 of warrants outstanding unpaid, with \$560,000 worth of bonds coming due the first of April, the addition of \$200,000 additional warrants would overload the market and the warrants fall on the market, to probably 80c on the dollar issued, and in years later the state would be compelled to pay back dollar for dollar with interest.

The supporters of the bill fought hard for \$200,000 and then for \$150,000 but in the face of figures like the above they could not secure more than the \$100,000 and it was right they should not.

The bill provides that the governor shall appoint six directors, one from each congressional district who shall have charge of the expenditure of the appropriation and the state's exhibit. They are to receive \$50.00 per month for not to exceed 15 months time, and are required to submit a monthly report to the governor every 30 days.

A resolution was passed providing that members of the legislature should not be eligible as members of this board and another that the wages of common labor to be paid out of the fund appropriated by the state should not be less than \$1.50 per day.

IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

The House Appoints a Committee with Power to Investigate.

The committee appointed by the legislature to make a preliminary investigation of the cash accounts in the several state offices found the statements set forth in the governor's message to be correct and quite complete; that the state treasurer was short \$537,762.93 and the auditor \$25,834.80.

Concerning the office of commissioner of public lands and buildings and the accounts of ex-commissioner H. C. Russell the committee reported as follows: COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS.

"The cash receipts in this office as a rule are not great, but owing to the fact that the last incumbent was chairman of the board of penitentiary supplies, large sums of money were collected and disbursed by him. The very incomplete records now in the office concerning the handling of this money make it impossible for the committee to make an intelligent report of the condition of these funds. The ledger kept in the office does not correspond with the auditor's report as published. From the appearance of the cash record its general make up and other evidence gathered by your committee we conclude that this record was manufactured in one day at the close of the term from typewritten slips not a part of the records of this office but carried by Mr. James Whitehead. All books of original entry, if there ever were any, could not be found by your committee.

Your committee would further report in connection with this office, that it seems to have been the practice to require clerks to sign and receipt vouchers for much larger sums than they actually received for service rendered."

The committee further recommended that another committee be appointed and authorized to secure a competent accountant, and have power and be directed to make a full investigation, and report their findings to the house of representatives at as early a date as possible.

This will be done and next week we hope to be able to publish a detailed account of their findings.

An 8-room cottage home near O street, Lincoln, Nebraska—no incumbrances—to trade for farm in Nebraska or Kansas. Address J. B. Romine, Lincoln, Neb.

HANNA'S LAST SCHEME.

Will Make an Effort to Subsidize the Country Press and Poison This Avenue of Information.

WHY BILL WAS VOTED DOWN

The Arbitration Treaty a Dangerous Measure.—Chances for its Defeat Improving.

To Rob the Government of \$50,000,000.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20, 1897.—(Special to the INDEPENDENT.)—The battle over the Arbitration Treaty continues behind closed doors in the Senate. The chances for defeating this infamous and dangerous British trap have improved. The chances are that before the Senate adjourns tonight (Saturday) the Treaty will either be defeated by a direct vote, or else indefinitely postponed. If the doors of the Senate could be thrown open and the true intent and purpose of this Arbitration Treaty exposed in open session the sentiment of all patriotic American citizens would rapidly crystallize against it. There is located somewhere a secret tory bureau, sending out circulars to the preachers, Quakers, women and children, urging the Senate to ratify this Treaty. These circulars simply present the abstract question: do you favor settling differences between nations by war or by arbitration? Of course, in answer to this abstract question everybody says: in favor of arbitration. Then the British tory circular suggests that if you favor arbitration petition the Senate to ratify the treaty now before it; and thus thousands of good people who have never read the treaty, and know nothing of its provisions and ultimate purposes are moved by sentiment to petition the Senate to vote for something which none of them would favor if they understood its real purport. It is no doubt the Williams Street Reform Club, located on Wall street, N. Y., which sends out gold literature and furnishes gold "patent outsiders" free to newspapers, that is busily engaged in working up this sentiment; but the light will soon be turned on, and the people will sustain those who fight the Treaty to the death.

MARK HANNA'S LATEST MONOPOLY SCHEME

Mark Hanna and the gold syndicates, trusts, and monopolists behind him, have begun to realize that they have won their last victory unless they can devise some scheme for cutting off all the avenues of information and truth to the people. They own the telegraph wires and control the Associated Press dispatches, and have nearly all of the great metropolitan newspapers subsidized, and thus through these powerful channels they keep the truth from the people, and prevent and poison the matter dished up to the public through the daily press each morning. But they are alarmed for fear the people will yet learn the truth through the country newspapers, and through such reform books as "Coin's Financial School," "President John Smith," "A General Freight and Passenger Post," and other such works that now pass through the mails as second class matter. Therefore, they have laid two schemes to cut off this source of information. One of their schemes is through the Loud Postal Bill, which has passed the House, and which they are now making desperate efforts to pass through the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. They are determined to rush the bill through at this session of Congress if possible.

Their second plan, which Mark Hanna has taken charge of personally, is to subsidize the country weekly newspaper. Mr. Hanna is planning to correspond with every editor of a country weekly that he thinks he can make a business arrangement with. The editor is to agree to run so much gold-bug stuff in his paper each week in return for a consideration of some nature, that Mr. Hanna will try to make agreeable to him. Let the people be on the lookout and watch for each one of these country weeklies that flop to Hanna's position.

The enemies of the people and good government know that they cannot destroy this government and enslave the people except by keeping the true and correct information away from them. Hence these two schemes.

THE CAT IN THE MEAL TUB.

A number of good people who have been shocked at the gigantic steal in the Pacific railroads were delighted when Huntington's Funding bill failed to pass the house. It now develops, however, that Huntington and his crowd were simply hedging to make a new deal to further ruin the people and the government. It had been generally understood that Huntington would command a majority of the house and pass his funding bill, but that he would have a rocky road to travel before passing the thieving measure through the senate. It now seems clear that it was a part of Huntington's scheme to have the house to defeat the bill in order to prevent the people's party senators from making a fight when the measure came up in that body to have the government's mortgage foreclosed and the government to take charge of the roads and run them in the interest of the people. It seems that Huntington and the reorganization committee of the Pacific railroads had reached an understanding, if not a deal, with Cleveland to the effect that if the house would vote down the funding bill and thus take the matter out of congress that Cleveland would at once proceed to foreclose and sell these roads at a price to suit Huntington and his confederates; and if we are to credit the statement which purports to come from the attorney general, it seems that Cleveland has

already agreed to sell these roads at about fifty millions of dollars less than they are worth. Thus the government is to be robbed of this much money for the benefit of certain railroad syndicates and also to prevent the people from demanding that the government take charge of these roads and operate them at cost in the interest of the people, to the end that a fair test of government ownership and operation of the great trunk line may be made. Senator Allen has offered in the senate a resolution, the purpose of which is to prohibit the president from thus sacrificing the government's property, and besides robbing the people of a fair test of public control and operation.

Thus the defeat of the funding bill in the house was a distinct victory for Huntington and his confederates, for it seems to have been a part of a deal and understanding between him and Cleveland. They were simply preparing for a new and greater steal. This is the cat in the meal tub.

WHO WILL CONTROL THE SENATE?

When Mr. Hanna came to Washington last December and held his famous conference, it became generally known that the result was a determination on the part of the national republican committee, backed by all the monopolies, combines, trusts, and gold syndicates of two continents; to manipulate the legislatures of enough states to capture a majority of the United States senate. At that time they felt satisfied that if they could subvert and capture the legislature of North Carolina, and thus succeed in electing Pritchard, that they would have enough votes to tie the United States senate, and that then the Vice-President, who would be a republican, would cast the deciding vote. Hence the desperate struggle made by Hanna and his agents to control the North Carolina legislature, which resulted in the election of their man. But no sooner had they won this costly victory than they were faced with an unexpected condition of affairs in Oregon, where they felt sure of electing a gold senator. Under the constitution of that state, two-thirds of the members were populists, so until this hour the legislature of Oregon has never been organized. If this deadlock should continue, then the republicans would be short one vote. This caused Hanna and his agents to turn their eyes to South Dakota, where they made desperate efforts to deadlock the legislature of that state, and to prevent an election in the event they could not elect Pickler, the republican caucus nominee. Their purpose was to offset the Oregon situation, and thus control the organization of the next senate. In short, the desperate battle which they fought in North Carolina was transferred to South Dakota. These significant facts began to be realized by the contending factions of the South Dakota legislature, and they had determined to get together and elect a successor to Senator Kyle, before Hanna and his agents could make further headway in their schemes. This would have been done within the next few days, but it seems that Hanna and his emissaries, learning this and knowing that it was impossible for them to prevent the election of a populist, threw their solid support to Senator Kyle, trusting in some way to profit by disensions that might thus be raised in populist ranks. Of course it was a great surprise to the populists in Washington to learn that Kyle had been elected by the help of a solid republican vote. The association press charges that Senator Kyle got these votes under a pledge to help the Republicans reorganize the senate, but that he was left free to vote for free silver. We cannot believe this. In short, it is absurd, because if Senator Kyle should vote to help the Republicans to organize the Senate it would put the gold men in charge of every committee, and then neither he nor any one else would ever get a chance to vote for any measure in the interest of the people. No such measure could ever be passed through any committee. No one here believes that any secret deal has been made between Senator Kyle and the Republicans, though all admit that the affair does not look well on its face. The chances are, however, that the Republicans, in desperation, threw their votes to Kyle so as to claim that they had some hand in deciding the result before the Populist factions could get together.

The People's party has gained two valuable additions in the election of Senator Heitfeld of Idaho, and Senator Turner of Washington.

EUGENE MOORE ARRESTED

On the Charge of Embezzlement and Theft of Public Funds.

The information prepared by the attorney general and Lancaster county attorney contains nine counts six of which charge embezzlement and three theft of public funds, of amounts aggregating \$27,208.05. It was understood by all parties that the suit was to be commenced at 3 p. m. When Mr. Moore appeared in the county court and Judge Cochran read the warrant and he was placed under arrest. At first Mr. Moore did not seem to be moved but before the reading was finished he was forced to draw his handkerchief and wipe away the tears.

Mr. Moore's attorneys are Willis Reed of Madison and H. C. Brome of Omaha. They asked for a continuance to March 24 at 2 P. M., which was granted by the court. The bond for Moore's appearance was fixed at \$10,000 and was signed by C. A. McCloud, L. W. Billingsly, J. H. Culver, A. L. Hoover of Lincoln and J. R. Sutherland of Tekamah. Defense will be that all fees should be into the state treasury and not to the auditor and for that reason he was accountable for the sums collected. Judge Allen W. Field of Lincoln represent Mr. Moore's official bond while the prosecution will be by attorney general C. J. Ed P. Smith, and deputy W. H. Munger.