

Nebraska Independent

Consolidation of THE WEALTH MAKERS and LINCOLN INDEPENDENT.

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STATE CONVENTION PEOPLE'S INDEPENDENT PARTY.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, July 8, 1897. By order of the State Central Committee of the People's Independent Party of the State of Nebraska, we hereby call a State Convention of the electors of said party to meet in the city of Lincoln on Wednesday, the first day of September, 1897, at 2 o'clock p. m.

The purpose of said People's Independent State Convention is to place in nomination one candidate for judge of the supreme court, and two candidates for members of the University of Nebraska, and to transact such other business as may properly come before said convention.

Table with columns: COUNTY, DELEGATE, COUNTY, DELEGATE. Lists delegates from various counties like Adams, Banner, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Butler, Cass, Chadron, Cherry, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dawson, Deuel, Dixon, Douglas, Fillmore, Frontier, Gage, Gosper, Grant, Greeley, Hamilton, Hayes, Holt, Howard, Johnson, Keith, Kimball, Lancaster, Logan, Madison, Merrick, Nemaha, Otoe, Perkins, Pierce, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Sherman, Stanton, Thomas, Thurston, Wayne, Wheeler.

It is recommended that each county elect alternate corresponding in number to their delegates and it is further recommended that the delegates present be allowed to cast the full vote of their counties and that no proxies be allowed.

J. H. EDMISTON, Chairman, B. B. W. WEBER, Secretary.

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Yes, the price of silver bullion is way down, but the silver dollars still buy as much wheat as the gold dollar.

Your "Uncle Jake" Wolfe has already brought to the state treasury several times the amount of his salary in bonuses secured in the leasing of school lands. Oh yes, Nebraska is being governed by the pops.

The B. & M. State Journal says Bryan is a discredited politician and that he will fill an ignominious grave. What rot! But Bryan has been digging the grave of the republican party and the year 1900 will see the grave filled.

"He who aids in increasing landlordism in this country hastens the overthrow of the republic, for free government will not long survive when a few own the land and means of support, while the many are tenants at will." - Wm. J. Bryan.

Sugar trust stocks and the stocks of twenty or thirty other trusts have advanced in price 50 per cent or more since the Dingley bill became operative. How much has the price of labor advanced? Ask the coal miners or the laborers in the iron and steel industries.

There are a few maxims that all the people should learn and remember and one of them is, "the only way to keep pure is to keep pure." This will apply to men in public office as well as to the private citizen. As children we were taught that "it is a sin to steal a pin." A postage stamp is a small theft, but it is a very bad habit to get into.

J. W. Johnson is giving the pops some pretty hard licks. You can tell about how hard a man is hit by the way his squirms, and Johnson certainly keeps them squirming. - York Times.

Yes, we keep "squirming." We can't help it. It is the same effort we would make to get on the windward side of a skunk; we're putting in "some pretty hard licks" in our neighborhood.

If the republican party in convention desires to recognize the result of its handiwork in a proper manner it should pass a resolution congratulating the sugar trust officials upon the magnificent evidence they are furnishing the country of the return of prosperity in the advance of 50 per cent in the value of sugar trust stocks. The republican party is certainly under great obligations to the sugar trust officials and should not fail to properly recognize them in its resolutions as it has done in its legislation.

TO NAME THE CANDIDATE.

The last legislature was composed of 66 populists, 29 democrats, 4 silver republicans and 40 republicans. This includes the members that were unseated in the Douglas county contests. It will be seen that the combined number of populists, democrats and silver republicans was 99. If the representation of members elected to the representative bodies of Nebraska be taken as a basis for the division of the patronage and spoils it will be seen that the populists would be entitled to approximately 66 per cent, the democrats 29 per cent and the silver republicans to 5 per cent, giving the advantage of the one per cent to the silver republicans. This is perhaps as fair a basis for the distribution of the political patronage as could be found. It is certainly not unfair to the democrats or silver republicans, for as will be remembered in all the counties in the state the argument was effectively used in the county conventions that the populists had all of the candidates for state offices except attorney general and therefore the candidates for the legislature should be given to the democrats and silver republicans, which in many strongly populist counties was granted. Anyone who will take the trouble to investigate will find that the populists have not had 66 per cent of the appointments, that they have not had to exceed 50 per cent of the positions. The claim that the democrats have not received their proper share is therefore without foundation. They have received more than their share. There is no reason why they claim the right to nominate the candidate for supreme judge in the coming state convention. Certainly 4 or 5 per cent of the vote polled would not entitle the silver republicans to name the candidate. Viewed in the light of fairness the candidate should come from the populist party.

The Farm Implement News, one of the leading trade implement journals of the country and non-partisan in its matter, gives the best summary of the general conditions of business in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska that we have found. The summary is based on reports received from farm implement dealers in all parts of these states. The farm implement dealers are better acquainted with the condition of farmers than any other class of men. They have failed to find any material improvement in business, which cannot be explained by the better crop prospects. The News says:

A summary for the great and rich state of Illinois makes a showing as follows: The wheat crop is short owing to various causes, but the quality of wheat harvested is good. Oats have done very well, but the yield will fall considerably below the big crop of last year. Hay is a big crop and quality fine. Corn promises well everywhere, and though late will make a good crop if it has time to mature, for which all are praying. Trade, according to the reports, can hardly be said to have been more than fair. In the spring it was disappointing; but since on mowers and haying machinery it was good, also on buggies, and on binders and twine not up to expectations. Complaint is generally made of poor collections on account of low prices. However, better prices and a good fall trade are anticipated.

Reports from Iowa give conditions similar to those of Illinois. Corn is the principal crop, and it promises to be about an average, with favorable weather; much was replanted and it is somewhat uneven in stand and growth. Oats are not so heavy as they were last year, but of better quality. Little is said of wheat, which is not the leading crop, evidently, though it has done well. Hay, especially clover, was a fine crop. Dealers had a good trade on spring implements and on crop planters and cultivators, also on mowers and vehicles, especially buggies, only fair on binders. The unusual complaints are made of poor collections and low prices, and the usual anticipations of a good fall trade expressed.

In Nebraska, which has had a recent stroke of prosperity, according to certain newspapers, prospects for corn are on the whole good. The extremely hot weather accelerated growth where there was sufficient moisture, but did some damage where it was dry. Some wheat was winter killed, but the crop is good, though acreage is not as large as has been represented. Oats are only a fair crop. A fairly good trade was enjoyed by the dealers on the smaller implements in the spring and on harvesting machinery and threshers in their season. The conditions are improving and a good fall trade is anticipated. The usual complaints are made of poor collections on account of the poverty of the farmers and scarcity of money. One dealer says trade was not heavy because money is scarce and farmers too much in debt to be able to contract for much new debt or to buy for cash. And their condition could not be otherwise, since one year of good crops at such prices as they got out there would not enable them to recover from the losses sustained by the preceding seasons of excessive drought and ruin.

It looks now like the republican party would renominate Judge Post for supreme judge. Every body recognizes the fact that Post is one of the most corrupt men that ever sat on the Nebraska bench, and that is saying a great deal. The decent element of the republican party is anxious to see Post turned down and an honest man nominated, but the old artful Moore-Mosher gang is in the saddle and will either nominate Post or some other equally corrupt man who will be a tool for the horde of robbers who have disgraced the name of our fair state.

Two years ago the candidate for supreme judge was a silver republican. Do you remember what the result was? In our opinion the proper thing to do is to try a populist candidate.

WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.

The history of the state of Nebraska does not record an administration of the state affairs that accomplished so much in so short a time as has been accomplished by the present officers. Governor Holcomb has placed all of the state institutions under his control in the hands of capable men, and by requiring a quarterly report from them keeps himself accurately informed as to the details of their management. There is no complaint from any source. His labors with the republican board of school lands and funds to secure the investment of the permanent school funds of the state is well known to all. Since the change in administration the populist board, acting upon the governor's advice, has invested large sums of school funds in state warrants, drawing 5 per cent interest, thus saving that amount to the taxpayers of the state. He has had the hearty co-operation of all of the members of the board in his efforts along this line. Treasurer Meserve has handled the state's funds in an excellent manner. The state bonds due in April were promptly paid. The school apportionment, the largest in the history of the state, was distributed among the counties without delay. Indications are that the next apportionment in December will be larger than the June apportionment. He has called general fund warrants so rapidly that they have raised in price from 93 and 95 cents to 100 cents and those exceeding \$100 command a premium of one-eighth of one per cent. Mr. Meserve has accomplished all this in the face of a delinquency of more than half a million dollars. If Mr. Meserve could have had the benefit of that money how much better he could have done can only be surmised.

The state auditor has made many improvements in the conduct of that office. He requires all insurance companies to pay for services rendered by the office. No credit is extended. Several thousand dollars were lost to the state during Moore's administration, as a result of a credit system by the accumulation of uncollectable accounts.

The present auditor insists that an insurance company that cannot pay as it goes cannot be in a very good condition to transact business in this state. The present auditor has given mutual farm insurance companies the right to insure country churches, school houses and parsonages a right the republican auditors denied them. Auditor Cornell has collected fees to the amount of \$15,500. He has also turned it into the state treasury, a thing his republican predecessor neglected and refused to do.

The secretary of state is acting under a law which he prepared and had passed by the last legislature. It was designed to make the office self-sustaining by increasing the fees. Mr. Porter believed that the people who patronize the office should pay a sufficient amount to pay the running expenses. The bill which he prepared was promptly passed by the legislature and under it Mr. Porter has collected more than \$1,600 in the first six months. The total receipts during Piper's administration was only a little over \$1600 in the two years. Mr. Porter is secretary of the printing board and has saved the state many thousands of dollars in the printing contract. The house and senate journals and session laws will cost less than half as much as they did two years ago. The saving in all other work has been fully as great.

The present land commissioner has been more diligent than any commissioner in the history of the state. He has traveled in many western counties and has leased thousands of acres of school lands that have heretofore been held by republican politicians without the payment of any interest to the school fund.

The savings cannot be accurately estimated but will very materially aid in increasing the December apportionment of the school funds.

Attorney General Smyth enjoys the reputation of being the first attorney general in Nebraska able to secure the conviction of a defaulting state official. He has one ready to go to the pen and another well started on the road. He has cleared the criminal docket so far as his office is concerned. Answers have been filed in all cases that have been appealed to the supreme court. As a rule in the past, criminal cases have been continued from term to term until the guilty would finally escape punishment. He has also made two trips to Washington, D. C. to urge the final action of the federal courts in relation to the maximum freight rate bill.

State Superintendent Jackson has been conducting his office in an economical and conservative manner consistent with good and efficient work. The expense for printing has been greatly reduced by placing the work where he could get it done at the least expense. He has visited many institutes and educational meetings. The teachers in all localities express their confidence in his ability and express their appreciation of the value of the close personal attention which Mr. Jackson gives to all of the work.

To give the details of the improvements made in each office would require a volume. The populist party has much to be proud of in the present set of state officials.

Did A. M. Post ever write a decision against a railroad corporation?

Every loyal populist who has been elected as a delegate to the state convention will make an effort to attend. It will be the largest in the history of the state. Important problems will be up for consideration. The party is young and care must be taken that no mistakes are made. The railroads have made a one fare rate from all parts of the state and with a little effort and sacrifice all delegates can attend. The action taken by this convention may mean much for the future of the populist party and the welfare of Nebraska depends largely upon the success of the populist party. It is the party that has saved the credit and reputation of the state and redeemed its offices from a set of political pirates and plunderers. The party has not been so successful in judicial elections. With the increasing power of the judiciary the importance of the coming election cannot be overestimated. The populist party must see to it that a good, capable, anti-corporation man is placed in nomination, and get out on election day and see that he is elected.

Do you think that the resolution which the republican convention in Lincoln today will pass, endorsing the McKinley administration in the United States will also contain a clause endorsing the action of the state officers of the last republican administration in Nebraska? Is it not just possible that after McKinley has served his term and turned the country over to the trusts and gold standard combine that the republicans party will forget, in its convention, to endorse his administration, in the same manner that they now neglect to pass resolutions endorsing the state administration of ex-republican officials? Many things are better in anticipation than realization.

There is one decent republican paper in Nebraska. It is the McCook Tribune. Its editor refuses to pollute its columns by publishing the vile lies of J. W. "Whisky Ridge" Johnson. In its last issue the Tribune says, in speaking of Johnson's letters:

"There is nothing to be gained by republican editors in going into deliriums of impotent rage and disappointment, or by exhibitions of partisan hate on the part of republican politicians, over the temporary eclipse of the party in Nebraska. Neither will it avail much to call the opposition nincompoops, anarchists, etc."

But Johnson is naturally vile, and will continue to wallow in his own filth.

It seems that the speculators had something to do with the recent boom in the price of wheat. The millionaire members of the boards of trade made several millions more. They boomed the market quick and froze out all the small western investors; and when the western men bought again at the higher price the eastern fellows dropped the price at a rate of five cents a day and the small speculators in the west were loser again. Its a great world, this financial world.

The republican convention in Lincoln today will endorse its past record by the renomination of Judge A. M. Post as the republican standard bearer in the campaign this fall. After he is nominated we shall review some of his decisions since he has been on the bench, especially those relating to railroads and other corporations. They will be interesting to the people of Nebraska.

The following table will show something of the saving that is being made in the cost of state printing by the present state printing board composed of Auditor Cornell, Treasurer Meserve and Secretary of State Porter. The saving given is accurate as shown by vouchers on file in the State offices except in the case of the House and Senate Journals where an estimate is made, the work of printing them not having been completed. The volumes will not contain more than 1,500 pages, and the saving will be a little greater than the amount given in the table. The work of printing the journals is so nearly completed that the estimate is very close. The less number of pages is due to the fact that the printers have not been allowed to make a separate line out of every two or three words as was done two years ago.

Table with columns: Title, Pages, 1895, Price Per Page, Total Cost, 1897, Price Per Page, Total Cost. Lists items like Session Laws, House Journal, Senate Journal, etc.

A Glance Over the Field.

A short time ago there came good news out of the East. All good news, you know, comes out of the East. Here it came like glad tidings of great joy: Nebraska, the home of Bryan, had paid off twenty-eight million dollars of mortgages. Some papers said twenty millions, some more and some less. Some said this paying off had happened in the last three years; some, in the last two years, and other some, in the last six months, but all agreed that it had happened and that it was a stupendous thing. No one knew where the report came from, or whether there was the slightest truth in it; but all the republican editors began singing it just the same. It was doled out in the major and minor key. It was harped on from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It was as a sweet morsel under the tongue. Truly we had run amuck of prosperity. And it had struck Nebraska the first of all the states of the Union.

This was all very pleasant, if it had been true. But the story of twenty-eight millions of mortgages paid off, or twenty millions, or ten millions, or any millions—in six months, or two years, or three years, or ten years for the matter of that—all has vanished into thin air. The official returns of the mortgages of the entire state have been sent in by the county clerks for the first six months of '97, and the result shows that in farm mortgages, including all foreclosures among the releases, there have been less than a million more foreclosures than fled. Leaving out the foreclosures there have actually been more filed than released. In town and city mortgages, the result is somewhat more favorable, the releases (foreclosures included) running something over a million more than the filings; but this is nothing new as the same ratios were kept up in '95 and '96. In chattel mortgages on the other hand the filings run more than five million over the releases. Two or three small counties are out yet, but the above is approximately the result. The movement for the first half of '97 on farm mortgages is somewhat more favorable than in '95 and '96. On other kinds of mortgages it is about the same. So much for that bubble.

It is amusing to see what straws our republican brethren will grasp at. They promised the people that the moment McKinley was elected we should have better times. McKinley was elected, but the better times came not. Then, they said, "You cannot expect to change things in a minute. Wait till McKinley is inaugurated." The people didn't have much else to do, so they waited. Finally McKinley was inaugurated, but still the good times came not. Then the republican editors got excited. There was something wrong behind the scenes. So they all got out in front of the footlights and announced, "This prosperity show is postponed until after the passage of the Dingley bill."

Well, the Dingley bill was railroaded through. The republican editors had no further excuse to fall back on. They grow frantic. Every accident, every rumor however baseless, was seized upon to bolster up their claims. There had been plenty of rain and bountiful crops in Nebraska. McKinley was responsible for that. They had paid off twenty-eight million dollars of mortgages in Nebraska. McKinley was responsible for that—or so the republican editors will be claiming in a short time. O, I tell you, this man McKinley is large potatoes. He is responsible for the sun and the rain; for the famine in India and the Liverpool price on wheat; for mortgages that were never paid off and the conviction of Bartley. Verily, if manna were to fall from heaven, as it did in the days of old, the republican editors would take the credit from God Almighty and give it to McKinley.

"But," our republican friend says, "the price of wheat has gone up, you know it has. You can't deny that." No, my republican friend, we don't want to deny it. God be praised, the price of wheat has gone up. Out of the misery and suffering of foreign lands a blessing has come to the American farmer. There is a wheat famine in India, the great granary of the east, and thousands have died and thousands more are dying from the effects of it. There is a wheat failure in Argentina and a short crop in Russia. The supply of wheat for Europe has been shut off. The people must have bread, hence the demand makes higher prices. The American wheat crop is going to Europe and selling at European figures. Wheat is a dollar in New York but it is still higher in Liverpool; and over the Liverpool price of wheat the republican party and its insignificant doings have about as much influence as a Foreign Islander has over the government of the United States; just about.

But outside of wheat has there been any real increase of prosperity? Honor bright, has there? In Nebraska, yes. This state has been blessed with the most magnificent crop in her history. The hard times have learned our people the value of economy. The Trans-Mississippi Exposition is coming on and that is inviting attention, confidence and capital to our state. Today Nebraska is about the most favored state in the union. There is an appearance of prosperity in Nebraska; but it is not a bit more due to the election of McKinley than to the recent eclipse of the sun; not a bit.

But in the country at large, is there any appearance of prosperity? Outside of the wheat market, no. Over all the eastern states is raging the greatest strike in the history of labor. Do great strikes occur in prosperous times? Never.

Recently a census was taken of the empty store buildings in New York city, and there were ten thousand of them—more than ever before. In the east they have just been feeling the clutch of the hard times demon. Banks and mills and factories have been closing down all spring and summer. The Dingley bill has passed and still the good times come not. No wonder the republican editors grasp at straws.

The international bimetallic bubble has burst. It never had anything in it but wind, but even that is gone now. The English government has refused to consider the question at present and the English papers have given the whole scheme away. It has never been regarded seriously in England; that country has shown a silent contempt for the entire proceeding. The United States has been placed in the attitude of a beggar whose petition has been spurned. So good-bye to international bimetalism. It was never anything but a platform promise on which to catch votes. And now it has gone the way of all such dishonest makeshifts.

But to return to Nebraska—Nebraska with her fifty million bushels of wheat; with her millions of acres of corn; with her cattle on a thousand hills; with her warrants at a premium and her credit good the world around; with her chief city preparing for the next world's exposition; with one of her sons the most popular American citizen. Truly Nebraska has been favored. This is her year. No more drought or famine. Like the phoenix she has risen from her ashes. Nebraska is all right. In the language of Artemus Ward, "long may she wave."

But what has the republican party done for Nebraska? Robbed her. Robbed her blind and dizzy, and only desisted from their pillaging when smitten by the heavy hand of defeat. What has the republican party done for Nebraska? Stolen from her state treasury a million dollars. Taken the patrimony of her school children and farmed it out gratis to precinct heeled and small bore politicians. Helped foreign corporations bleed her people and sap the life from her industries. Run her credit down till her securities sold for five per cent below par. Dragged her supreme court in the mire of partisan politics till it has lost the respect of honest men. Placed an acknowledged defaulter as mayor of her chief city. And when finally driven from a twenty-five year lease at her public crib, this same republican party, like an ingrate, smote the hand that had fed it and reviled Nebraska for becoming a pop state.

A littler ancient history. Ye all remember the republican state ticket of 1892. Look on it. Here is the personnel: Lorenzo Crounse, Thos. J. Majors, John C. Allen, George H. Hastings, Eugene Moore, Joseph S. Bartley, A. R. Humphrey and A. S. Goudy. Look at that ticket. There are only two decent men on it—Crounse and Goudy and they have both been read out of the republican party. Goudy is a free silver republican and Crounse has quit politics in disgust. Look at the rest of the ticket. Tom Majors' "Tattooed Tom!" But the less said about him the better. Tom is in trouble, or rather Tom, jr., is. So we will drop the curtain on him. Allen, Hastings and Humphrey. All three impeached by the legislature of 1893 for complicity in the famous asylum and penitentiary steals. Declared "guilty" by Chief Justice Maxwell, and only saved from removal from office by two partisan judges, and even they were forced to admit that the action of said Allen, Hastings and Humphrey "was highly censurable as unbusinesslike and wanting in that intelligent regard for the interest of the public which the state expects from its officers." Where are these three men now? Sunk to an oblivion that better becomes them than ever did their publicity. There were two more men on this ticket. Bartley and Moore—the former sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary—the latter awaiting trial for embezzlement. These were representatives of the republican party in 1892. Has the party reformed since that time? No. It proposes to renominate Post, one of the above named judges, this year.

Has the republican party of Nebraska reformed? You only have to look at its mouthpieces to decide that question in the negative. There are three of these who are most generally recognized as speaking by the card, as it were. They are the Lincoln Call, Doc Bixby of the State Journal and J. W. Johnson. Do you imagine a party that has over dreamed of reform would have such spokesmen as these? Think of it. The Lincoln Call, the most notorious black-guard and blackmailing sheet in the state; hardly fit to go into a refined home; in the language of Braun's leonoclast, a paper suitable only for papering pantry shelves, or for less polite purposes. Then Doc Bixby! Well, he is hardly to be taken seriously. He is a poet. No, I beg the pardon of the poetical fraternity, whom I sincerely respect. He is a rhymer. He grinds out machine made trash by the hour and is paid for it by the yard. He used to edit a pop paper but changed his politics when offered a bigger salary by the State Journal. The last is Johnson. Johnson—it seems to me I have heard that name before. There was a J. W. Johnson who was once hired to go down and besmirch the character of the late Congressman McKelghan. He was arrested in a baggio of Red Cloud. Then there was a J. W. Johnson who got on the republican state board of transportation, who drew not only his salary from the state but blackmailing the Elkhorn railroad to give him \$100.00 per month on the side for looking after the interests of that road. Then there was a J. W. Johnson who was hired by the State Journal to go down into Missouri and Arkansas to malign the character of those states. He was run out of one Missouri town for insulting a negro woman. If this be the same J. W. Johnson why he is only a common liar, without character or conscience, who writes what he is paid for. If this be that J. W. Johnson, he is lying now because paid \$27.00 per week by the republican state central committee for lying. He is the same man who lied about Hulcomb in 1894, but he did not injure Hulcomb. I think our papers have given entirely too much notice to this person. He is unworthy of it. Besides his writing does no harm, unless it is to