

THE OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE

In this department we will publish communications of a worthy and suitable character, received from subscribers to this paper. No communication should contain more than 300 words. Manuscript will not be returned.

Populism.

CO-OPERATION, COMPETITION, REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT A FAILURE.

EDITOR NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT:

The civilized world is engaged in a blind struggle to discover and destroy the prime cause of the industrial and governmental evils from which it suffers. Let the real cause be once clearly seen and apprehended and there is certainly wisdom enough and virtue and courage enough in the people of the United States, at least, to discover and apply the remedy. Let it once be applied by us, who stand as the van-guard of civilization, and we may reasonably hope the nations of the old world will come up abreast of us.

A mighty revolution is now in progress among the English speaking peoples of the earth.

What is the cause of it and where will it end?

The cause of it rests in the desire of the people:

1st.—To escape existing evils; 2d.—To realize in actual life the brotherhood of man, something that only exists now as a beautiful theory.

The greatest evil, greatest because productive of the largest sum of human misery is the competitive system.

From time immemorial philosopher, philanthropist and saint have advocated the proposition that it is only by competition the everlasting struggle for survival of the fittest, that the human race could be developed to its best and highest capabilities.

This is the most stupendous of all errors.

The true proposition is just the opposite. Man's highest and best development is to be found only in true christian brotherhood and co-operation. The golden rule and the second commandment in actual operation would forever destroy the competitive system and develop in man all that is God-like in his nature.

Competition, instead of developing man to his highest and best capabilities, makes him a devil. Relentless, hard-hearted greed is the fruit of it. Under it love for one's fellow-men is impossible, except in theory. Ministers preach on Sabbath: Love thy neighbor as thyself; but on Monday morning his hearers join in a mad strife for gain at the expense of the weaker ones. Under competition it is honorable and laudable for one merchant to outstrip his weaker and less capable brother and leave him a wreck by the wayside; for one lawyer to win clients away from his less shrewd brother, for the doctor to wean another doctor's patients away from him; for the laborer to take a fellow-laborer's job away from him. It is war to the knife, the knife to the hilt.

It is lawful and a part of the system for two or a dozen men to combine their dollars and wits, to mobilize a small but powerful industrial army, in order the better to conquer and capture the universal desire, profit.

No matter how many millions the profit is flushed from, nor how many industrial wrecks strew the line of its march, nor how many human lives are crushed out in the unequal and therefore hopeless struggle, this triumphant combination of heartless wit and capital and devilish greed marches on until it counts its gains by hundreds of millions and its victims by other millions.

"The big fish eat up the little ones." Thus man apes the brutish monster of the deep and becomes kin to conscienceless saurian of the reptilian age and to the ferocious flesh-eating feline of the jungle. Man does not eat the flesh of his brother, but he eats and otherwise consumes the product of his brother's toil, taken from him unjustly by superior power and under sanction of law. The strong man, industrially, literally lives on his weaker brothers, piling up his millions in profits unjustly taken from the millions of disorganized producers. Thousands and hundreds of thousands go down to death, not industrial death merely, but death of the body, in the unequal struggle of competition.

The climax is at hand. Two factors combine to make possible what never before was possible: The enslavement industrially of the millions of toilers by capitalists. These two factors are:

1st—Improved transportation; 2d—Improved machinery.

Capital as owner of transportation lines and as owner of machinery is complete master, master not only of the wage earner, but of all traders and farmers, for they are dependent upon the railroad and the machine.

Being master the capitalist exacts and

obtains unjust profits from all. Hence poverty of the multitudes and slavery are inevitable.

There is but one remedy, co-operation. Co-operator upon an exact equality so that the strong will help the weak and not live upon them; this and nothing less will afford relief. This means true christian brotherhood. Then will greed cease to develop in the human heart. Then will man cease to struggle solely for self. He will then labor for all. He will then find it possible to love his neighbor as himself. Brotherly love will not then be stifled and smothered as now, but it will become a luxuriant and lovely flower in the heart and life of all. With equal distribution the labor required to produce an abundance for all will need but a small fraction of the time. None will then be a slave to toil in order to live. Four-hour days will suffice. Hence much time may be given to improvement of mind and heart. Then will it be possible for man to expand, grow, develop to his full estate and become the God-like being his Creator intended him to be.

Populism is a prophecy of the coming revolution. The populist party is the first political party to advocate co-operation on a large scale through the government.

Capitol is already in the field, co-operating through trusts and combines to pile up more millions for the few and to rivet the chains of industrial slavery tighter. The question now is: Shall capital have co-operation for the benefit of the few or shall all the people co-operate through the government for the benefit of all?

Populism is leading the way to a settlement of that question. Give us the people's financial system, the people's railroads, the people's telegraphs and telephones, street cars, water works, lighting plants, coal mines, oil wells, people's ownership of all inventions with pension to the inventor, people's ownership of all unused lands, and the power of capitalism will be broken and the way opened for universal co-operation along all lines.

W. L. HAND,
Kearney, Nebr.

Work Without Worrying.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT:

As I am one of the old Farmers Alliance I will begin right there. I would like to see honor where honor belongs.

The old Farmers' Alliance laid out the principles and nothing short of them, and a few more added to them will bring the United States to where it was when our forefathers laid down the independence and constitution. When Mr. Bryan took two or three of the principles of our platform he became the great statesman of the great reform. But I want to say right here that we populists know very well that his two or three principles won't bring him through where they should be. And another thing we want is this: We want the populist party to select a man for governor out of the old Farmers' Alliance who has been tried and proven to be the right man and not the democrats appoint a man and we be fool enough to help elect him. We should appoint one and stick right there is our motto.

The populist party may have met with a set back, but our cause was never as formidable as it is to-day. No need of worrying about the populist organization, they are going to rally around the old flag. Educate and spread the light. Work, but don't worry.

I. F. PLUM.

A RAINY WINTER.

Always Brings a Legion of Catarrhal Diseases.

Rain, rain, rain. Mud, slop, sleet and slush. Flood and freeze, slip and splash, alternate ceaselessly. Sometimes it makes us mad. Sometimes it makes us laugh. We cannot be sure what the weather will be for an hour at a time. There is one thing we can be sure of, however: that such weather will bring catarrh—catarrh of the head, eyes and ears.



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A Specimen of Black Republican Lying: EDITOR INDEPENDENT:

Over twenty years ago Hon. Benjamin F. Tracy, ex-member of President Harrison's cabinet, and lately republican candidate for mayor of greater New York, was engaged in the defense of Henry Ward Beecher, on the charge of alienating the affections of Theodore Tilton's wife. In opening the defense, General Tracy said, "as nearly as I remember his words: 'Impious Punting Pilat said: 'What is truth?'" Theodore Tilton and Francis Moulton answered: "That which is bravely told and firmly stuck to."

"I was reminded of this several weeks ago. Just after I had replied to Hon. A. E. Sheldon, through the columns of your valuable paper, the following appeared in the columns of the Omaha Bee:

"The letter of A. E. Sheldon, one of the populist members of the late legislature, published in the populist organ a week ago, in which he pleaded for complete consolidation of the populist and democratic parties has, as was expected, stirred up quite a hornet's nest in popu-

list circles.

The Independent this week comes back with a letter from Wilbur Bryant, a well

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

known democratic politician of Hartington, denouncing the Sheldon letter as both "untimely and ill-advised." Mr. Bryant practically tells the populists that their party is nothing but an experiment, doomed to disappear without achieving success, and that its only present use is to help the democratic party into power. After a review of the third party movements in America, Mr. Bryant says: "Brother Sheldon should remember that the populist party is still an experiment. Thus far it has achieved no more success than did its predecessor, the Native American party, and not much more than did the anti-Masonic organization. These old parties failed because no real demand for them existed. The prohibitory party failed because it tried to do too much. The populist party is liable to fail for the same reason."

BRYAN FOR 1900.

"Then after emphasizing the necessity of capturing the democratic nomination for Bryan in 1900, Mr. Bryant points out that an attempted consolidation as proposed by Sheldon with all who voted the fusion ticket in one set of caucuses, primary elections and conventions, would eventually lead to eternal discord, for the elements are agreed on no doctrine except free silver. The letter concludes with another democratic slap at the populist candidate for the vice presidency in 1896, as follows: 'Brother Sheldon speaks of the treatment of the vice presidential candidate in 1896. Don't try, brother Sheldon, to make a martyr out of Thomas E. Watson. Watson has failed of this job himself and there is no likelihood that you will succeed.'

Democrat indeed! I never voted the democratic ticket in my life. I had known the editor of the Bee for fifteen years; have, at one time, been his intimate personal and political friend, and have sat beside him in many a republican convention in days that are passed. I am tolerably well known in populist circles, where such a statement would only draw out a smile. Why was such a statement made and such a garble account of my letter given? For the weekly edition readers, most of whom have no other avenue of information. Did Edward Rosewater ever read Revelation XXI:8?

WILBUR F. BRYANT.
Hartington, Neb., Jan. 19, '98.

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No price is asked, but simply send your name and address plainly written on a postal card to the F. A. Stewart Co., Marshall, Mich., requesting a little book on stomach diseases and it will be sent promptly by return mail.

God pity the poor.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT:

Truly, misfortunes never come singly. Now comes a tale of woe from two little boys who recently lived in a suburban village of Chicago, George and Walter Putnam, two boys who have been quite well known in society circles. A short time ago they lost an indulgent father—a man supposed to be quite well to do. He left them to the cold, cold charity of the world, with the pitiful sum of \$3,000 a year each and \$18,000 hours, but recently they pitted their \$1,000 bull pup against a common scrub dog, and he, too, is a corpse. The swell clubs snub them. Society has gone back on them. Their best girls drop them like a cold potato, and in all probability they will be permitted to ride in palace cars no more forever. Sad and late. It has been said of them that they spent a million and a quarter of dollars in Chicago in ten years. Now, where in Sam hill did it come from? From the sweat of some other man's brow. I know some Nebraska boys who would try to worry along on \$3,000 a year. The average pug boy in Nebraska gets from five to eight months work out of the twelve at from \$14 to \$20 per month. Those are the boys who have made it possible for the poor Pullman boys to have a million and a quarter to spend. And yet our

affectionate parents, who have worked hard to earn their \$1,000 a year, are transferred to the other fellow's pockets. In fact there are thousands of pretty old boys who vote as though they were en-

tirely ignorant of anything going wrong.

Next month we have some real estate foreclosure sales. One farm of 160 acres the man bought fourteen years ago for \$11 per acre. He is a hard working man, has been blessed with lots of good health, and I have known his wife to go out in the cornfield and help him pick corn. There is still \$3,700 against the place. Another man paid \$4 per acre for his place fourteen years ago. His place went three years ago. Another case, a German bought his 160 acres ten years ago, at \$10 per acre. After ten years of hard work the mortgage is \$1,800. I have seen the mother and two daughters helping to stack eighty acres of heavy wheat when it was too hot for men to work, and you might almost say that these people have lived on what they could not sell.

And yet others have paid \$4,000 and \$5,000 on half sections, who have had to give them up, and these instances are not few. There are others. And yet the Prairie Farmer tells editorially to the world that the great trouble with the Nebraska farmer today is "how can we invest our surplus cash? I know many merchants who could tell thousands of them where they could place it to do the most good. But I tell you they haven't got it."

Men and brethren, investigate these matters. There is a better way than for some boys to have a million and millions to have nothing. Look it up. There's money in it.

And now, hoping that George and Walter may worry along on their pitance, I remain yours truly,

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I, for one, am glad we have progressed this far. By fusion we have accomplished already what it would have taken years to bring about by any other course. What we want is to advance the best interests of our government. Under the present plutocracy rule we certainly are doomed sooner or later. Ohio has just returned one to the senate. We see republicans eulogizing this action to the skies, while in fact every man that has the country at heart should regard such action as a disgrace. This action should cause every citizen to weep for the action of such rulers, as we never can expect anything good to come from such a man, whose