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**The Ticket**

- For Governor.....W. H. Thompson (Democrat, Hall County.)
- Lieut. Governor.....E. A. Gilbert (Populist, York County.)
- Secretary of State.....John Powers (Populist, Hitchcock County.)
- Auditor.....C. Q. De France (Populist, Jefferson County.)
- Treasurer.....J. N. Lyman (Populist, Adams County.)
- Attorney General.....J. H. Broady (Democrat, Lancaster County.)
- Commissioner Public Lands and Buildings.....J. C. Brennan (Democrat, Douglas County.)
- Supt. of Schools.....Claude Smith (Populist, Dawson County.)

"If women scoffed at soldiers, There would be wars no more."  
—S. E. Kiser.

Samar Smith has been vindicated for the issuing of the "howling wilderness" order. Upon his arrival in the United States he will be assigned to the command of the department of Texas.

Norris Brown's speech as temporary chairman was marked by his inability to distinguish between the truth and fiction; and Permanent Chairman Davidson's speech showed his inability to distinguish between his own and the language of others.

Washington dispatches say that Senator Hoar, discouraged and disheartened, has left Washington and retired to his home in Worcester, Mass. He will not return to the senate during this session. What his future course will be, he refuses to say.

The republican state convention at Lincoln was characteristic of the clan. The chairman stole his speech and the delegates made large contributions to the school fund through the police court. All of which will have a tendency to keep the rank and file voting 'er straight.

The crowning of a king will not prove such a profitable commercial venture as the London shop and hotel keepers hoped. The agents of the trans-Atlantic steamship companies say that travel has not increased this year over last year, and, in fact, is a little less.

It is said in Washington that Governor Taft is going to issue a general amnesty to all Filipino prisoners of war on the Fourth of July and try the virtue of conciliation. Will Aguinaldo be included? Nothing is said about him although the prisoners confined on the island of Guam are mentioned.

All the Washington correspondents of the great dailies unite in declaring that the sugar trust has bought a controlling interest in the beet sugar combine and now Havemeyer don't care a cent whether the president wins or loses in his fight for reciprocity with Cuba. It's heads I win, tails you lose, with the sugar trust.

Do the republican dailies that tell us of the statesmanship and wonderful wisdom of Hill and Cleveland intend to abandon Mark Hanna and support these ancient democrats in the coming campaign? If Hill and Cleveland are the embodiment of political wisdom, as all the dailies declare they are, then the dailies ought to make them their standard-bearers.

Every time that Cleveland or Dave Hill appear before the public announcing the course that the democracy should pursue, all the republican leaders are delighted. They well know that that is what will lead to republican success and democratic defeat. Therefore they pat Hill and Cleveland on the back and tell us what great statesmen these relics are.

The most disputable assaults ever made upon the army and navy have been made by the republican party. It has tried to bring disgrace upon the heads of both departments of the military defense of the nation, army and navy, by its bitter assaults upon the great commanders who have won the victories of which the nation is proud. When talking about "assaulting the army," the hired writers on the great imperialist dailies never mention how Dewey, Schley and Miles have been assaulted by the republican leaders.

**THE STATE CONVENTIONS**

The result of the state conventions held by the populists and democrats at Grand Island is that there will be closer co-operation between the two parties than ever, although at one time hope of any fusion at all was almost abandoned.

Both of the conventions were the largest held in years and the character of the delegates was of the best. When one looked over the populist convention he saw there a grave and thoughtful assembly of the very best citizenship of this state. The bench and bar had many of their best men there, the number of judges being very large. Every line of business except that of the great corporations had delegates there, farmers, of course, largely predominating. For the most part it was a convention of gray-headed men. When one sat upon the platform and studied the faces of those delegates he saw written on them honesty, intelligence, earnestness and fixed determination. There was never an assemblage in the state of the same size composed of men of higher character or inspired with more lofty purpose.

Both conventions met with the fixed determination to have the candidate for governor. The truth was that the populists were astonished when they first heard that the democrats would claim the office. They supposed that that matter was settled last year when the populists nominated a democrat for the head of the ticket. Their determination to insist that the governor should be a populist was increased when the democrats proceeded to make a nomination without consultation with the populists and before any conference committee had been appointed. The truth of the matter is this: The Hill-Cleveland democracy formed a plan to defeat fusion in these western states. Their paid agents have been working in almost every county in Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Minnesota. In the democratic delegations there were one or two and sometimes more of these men from each county. They did not care who was nominated for governor. Their object was to defeat fusion. They had a very active and efficient leader in Ed. P. Smith of Omaha. Men like W. H. Thompson, P. L. Hall, Metcalf and several others who thoroughly understood the animus of the whole affair could not get the delegates in the convention to understand the situation. The consequence was that the deadlock grew firmer all the time. If the populists had had any candidate of prominence there is no doubt that at several stages of the proceedings the deadlock could have been broken. But there was no prominent man in the populist party who wanted the office. The most tremendous pressure had to be brought upon M. F. Harrington to get him to allow his name to be used.

The corporation democrats in Omaha who started out to defeat the election of C. J. Smyth managed the affair with consummate skill. There is no man more highly esteemed in the populist party than C. J. Smyth. His nomination by the democrats before the populist convention had fairly assembled and thrown at them in the manner that it was, was not the work of Smyth or any friend of his. Its rejection by the populists was not on account of any dislike they had for Smyth. Every one of them would have been pleased to see him governor. But that was not the question before them.

This fight went on hour after hour through the long, weary night, both conventions growing more determined to hold out until at last a happy thought seized the delegates to the populist convention and they cast a unanimous vote for W. J. Bryan, amid a scene of excitement and enthusiasm such as is seldom seen in any convention. But it didn't work; Mr. Bryan would not accept the office.

All night long while the balloting was continuing, the leaders in both parties were holding conferences trying to reach some agreement, that when presented to the conventions would furnish a solution.

At 10 o'clock in the morning the strain on the conventions was simply terrific. No solution of the problem seemed possible. Both were on the point of nominating separate tickets and turning this state over to the republican party and the corporations. All had been said that could be said on both sides. Then a happy thought struck both conventions at once. It was to nominate a populist who had been connected with the Bryan demagoguery. It was adopted and by 11 o'clock W. H. Thompson, the "Little Giant" of Grand Island, had been unanimously nominated by both conventions. The clouds rolled away and the sun of peace shed its effulgent rays over as happy a crowd of 2,000 men as were ever found together on the face of the earth. The relief from the awful strain so suddenly removed threw members of both parties into an ecstasy of good feeling—all but the little crowd of Dave Hill democrats who had come to Grand Island to defeat fusion.

Out of this turmoil and excitement W. J. Bryan came forth a greater idol of the populists than ever he was before. He visited the populist conven-

tion several times and made short speeches in that inimitable way that Bryan only can. The great address that he made, however, was to the democratic convention when the clouds lung the thickest and darkest. There Bryan rose to his greatest height. That little band of traitors in the convention was blistered from head to foot with his burning words. It will be impossible for any man, especially any democrat, who heard that speech ever to forget it.

This editor wants to make a confession. He has taken an active part in every state convention ever held in the state save one. He never went away from one that he did not have something to kick about. The convention always did something somewhere in its proceedings that he did not approve. This time there is not a thing in all its proceedings that he does not approve. One or two delegates did things that were in bad taste and one member was a bore from the beginning to the end. But that was not the fault of the patient and gentlemanly delegates who refrained from protesting. The editor of The Independent, after being in constant attendance from the time the convention was called to order until it adjourned, is forced to confess that he cannot find a single thing to kick about. It was the greatest convention the populists ever held in the state of Nebraska.

**LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

Those short-sighted individuals who have been proclaiming that the populist party is dead, "that it has outlived its usefulness" and ought to be disbanded, etc., etc., might look about them and ask themselves, in what condition will the democratic party be by 1904? The "reorganizers" were in the saddle at the Indiana state convention, and the same is true of the Illinois state convention. Down in New York it was so apparent that the Hillites would dominate the state convention that the believers in the Kansas City platform took time by the forelock and nominated a ticket of their own, under the name of "liberal democrats."

From a private letter the editor of The Independent learns that "the democratic party of Indiana is in for a most humiliating defeat on the state ticket this year. The friends of Mr. Bryan are incensed at the treatment he received at the hands of the convention, and while some of the candidates are very popular men, yet there is a disposition on the part of many democrats to refrain from voting the state ticket, although they will vote the local ticket." This will occur in the farming districts especially. The rank and file are well informed on the platform as well as on the intention of the leaders to deliver them over to the eastern interests, and they will resent the insult. All this comes because the "reorganizers" were determined to repudiate the Kansas City platform.

At the Illinois state convention similar tactics won out. For a time it looked as though Chairman Hopkins and his "reorganizer" band would be whipped—but they finally controlled the convention. The platform contains a number of excellent planks, but it wholly ignores the Kansas City platform except in the remotest degree. The reaffirmation plank brought on a hard fight, and from reaffirming the "fundamental principles of the democratic party as laid down in the Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the United States affirmed at our last national convention" the convention amended the plank to say, "repeatedly affirmed at past democratic conventions," because it was feared that the first expression might be construed as a "too specific declaration for silver."

Talk as they may about other issues, it is the financial plank of the Kansas City platform that makes the millions of democratic voters pronounced in its favor. It is that plank which the plutocrats hate, because it is aimed at them and they know it. The old tweedledee-tweedledum tariff issue will arouse no enthusiasm now, yet these "reorganizers" think they can with it—and that is where they make the greatest mistake of their lives.

The democratic party deserves a most humiliating defeat wherever such treachery is shown as at the Indiana and Illinois conventions. The great mass of democratic voters did not risk for a cowardly evasion. They did not ask for a change in the financial plank. And a victory won on the platforms enunciated and with the men nominated would be worse than defeat—because defeat might pound some sense into the heads of the democratic leaders, or cause them to be deposed and their places taken by men of honor who could be relied upon to uphold democratic principles as laid down in the Kansas City platform.

With the Kansas City platform spat upon and denounced by democratic leaders in so many states, the future of the populist party is not hard to discern. Instead of being an ally to a giant party of the people—as the democratic party has been since 1896—the people's party will grow to be that giant itself. Its recruits will come from the ranks of the democratic party, men who now believe sincerely in the Kansas City platform.

**MACHIAVELLIAN GOVERNMENT**

The Machiavellian diplomacy was based on expediency and deceit, as opposed to right and justice, and a perfect indifference to the ethical element in human nature. That seems to be the policy of the present administration. In a republic it is the right of the citizens, who are the real rulers of the country, to know all the facts and to have access to the public records. In no other way can the voters know how to intelligently cast their ballots. If that is not done, whatever name may be given to the government matters but little. It is not a republic, but an oligarchy. That is what the government of the United States is tending towards. This war in the Philippines was started by a few republican politicians at Washington. Congress never declared a war on the Filipinos and the people were never consulted. The whole thing was managed on the Machiavellian plan.

Recently another thing has been revealed of the same sort. It appears that the Spanish government sent formal information to Washington through the regular diplomatic channels that there was a state of war in Cuba, as early as 1896. That was kept a secret. The object of it was to prevent legal claims being made against the Spanish government for loss of property by private citizens and foreigners occurring in the conflict. The keeping of it a secret at Washington was a very great advantage to the Spanish monarchy for if the fact had been proclaimed, this government would have been forced to grant belligerent rights to the Cuban patriots. It had another important effect. In the treaty of peace with Spain the United States assumed all liabilities upon these claims and the persons who had lost their property and those who had suffered by the death of near relatives looked with confidence to the United States to pay. A special court of claims to settle these matters was created by act of congress. About \$30,000,000 of claims were filed in this court. And now comes this government of the United States and produces in that court this notification of a state of war in Cuba which nullifies all these claims, including those of the relatives of the brave sailors who went down in the Maine.

The independent submits to its readers the question if this does not outdo Machiavell himself. If it were only one instance, the matter would not be so serious, but the whole government is run on this plan. The people are kept in ignorance of important facts—facts that it is necessary for them to know to rightly govern. By this means, instead of having a government by the people, we have a government by a few politicians. The result is an oligarchy instead of a republic. The other day the republican party by a solid vote in the house refused to pass a resolution asking for information from the war department how the Cuban revenues had been expended while the military government was in power. In the senate the reading of an official report which the war department had refused to send when demanded by the senate, caused the president to take extraordinary measures to prevent the public getting any more information of like character. The republican oligarchy well knows that if the people could get all the facts that there would soon be a big lot of republican statesmen out of a job, so they are determined that the people shall not have the facts.

**A BANKER'S SIDE REMARKS**

One of the oldest and most successful bankers in the state of Nebraska in a letter to the editor of The Independent on a matter of business took occasion to make the following side remarks:

"I want to tell you, friend Tibbles, that the bankers of this state are alarmed over the pending Fowler bill. . . . A supercilious egotism has blinded them to the steady march of concentration, and while they have viewed with complacency the crushing of independent enterprise in other lines by mergers and combinations, they stood blind to the fact that the same relentless tendency was inevitably reaching for the independent banks. Already they feel the poisonous breath in the Fowler bill. They listened to the siren song of 'sound money' to suddenly awake, confronted with wild-cat in the worst form. If it comes, I will get out and buy a farm in the Logan valley along side of yours, and in the evening shade we will sit together and complacently view the wreckage we tried so hard to steer to a haven of safety. I have challenged local bankers to show in their library a single work on political economy and none was in position to call my bluff. Per cent was all they knew."

How many times has The Independent told the bankers of Nebraska when they were strutting around having lots of sport poking fun at populists, that the time would come when they would be calling on the populist party to save them from destruction. They now begin to see the day of their extirpation approaching. If the laws against combinations are not to be enforced, little banks will disappear along with all other sorts of independent enterprises. That will be true, whether the Fowler bill becomes a law or not. Two or three leading banks

in fifty or sixty cities can form a corporation in the same manner that the steel trust did. What is there to hinder them? The passage of the Fowler bill would only facilitate the matter. It is not a necessity to enable the magnates to accomplish their purposes. Either all kinds of trusts must be prohibited or there will be a banking trust and the independent bankers will become clerks for the Wall street gang. If a trust in steel, coal, and a hundred other things can be maintained, then so can a banking trust. If the bankers continue to aid and abet the party under which trusts were formed and are maintained, they cannot escape the fate that is awaiting all independent business.

**ROOSEVELT'S TRANSFORMATION**

It takes a mighty man to withstand the pernicious influences constantly exerting their baneful effects upon every man who holds office in Washington. Hundreds of men have gone there inspired by the highest ideals and in a few years they become sordid plutocrats, their manhood degenerated and their ideals vanish. Some hold out for a time, but most of them succumb within a year or two. Of the latter class is Theodore Roosevelt. His transformation has been rapid and complete. His opinions concerning colonies have wholly changed since 1896. In an article in The Bachelor of Arts, published in the March number of that year, Mr. Roosevelt's opinions on the subject of colonies were clearly stated. To show what a transformation has been accomplished in the president's opinions by his short residence in Washington, The Independent makes the following quotations from it and its readers can compare them with his recently expressed views:

At best, the inhabitants of a colony are in a cramped and unnatural state. At the worst, the establishment of a colony prevents any healthy popular growth. At present the only hope for a colony that wishes to attain full mental and moral growth is to become an independent state, or part of an independent state. No English colony now stands on a footing of genuine equality with the parent state.

Under the best of circumstances, therefore, a colony is in a false position. But if the colony is in a region where the colonizing race has to do its work by means of other inferior races the condition is much worse.

British Guiana, however well administered, is nothing but a colony where a few hundred or few thousand white men hold the superior positions, while the bulk of the population is composed of Indians, negroes and Asiatics. Looked at through the vista of centuries, such a colony contains less promise of true growth than does a state like Venezuela or Ecuador.

That indefinable something which pervades the very air of Washington has in so short a time worked so great a transformation in Theodore Roosevelt that it seems almost impossible that sentiments, such as the above, could ever have been entertained by him. This influence is just as powerful upon senators as upon presidents, and one of the most important reasons why senators should be elected by a popular vote is that they would be forced out of the Washington environment once in a while and compelled to meet the common people face to face in a campaign.

**WHO WILL HELP?**

It must be apparent to even the casual observer that the postoffice department at Washington—that part of it dealing with second-class matter—is losing no opportunity to crush out all papers which do not truckle to the administration. In many instances no assault can successfully be made, but whenever there is the slightest opportunity, Maddenization is begun. As long as Mr. Murphy published his paper at Massena, N. Y., and called it the Massena Forum, the department had not the slightest pretext for suppressing him; but the moment he desired to remove to Malone, N. Y., and change the name to Malone Forum, then was the chance to rid the country of an anti-administration paper. Mr. Murphy was required to deposit \$20 a week postage until the department could finally decide whether he is entitled to entry as a newspaper. Being a poor man, Mr. Murphy cannot long keep this up—and the department will undoubtedly make a very long investigation before it is satisfied (?) of his eligibility; by that time his paper will have suspended—unless some big-hearted Bryan democrat will help him out. Here is an opportunity to do something substantial for the cause. Who will volunteer to help Mr. Murphy in his struggle against the powers that would crush him?

Judge Davidson amended Henry W. Grady's speech by striking out the words "as Elisha did" and by substituting the word "commerce" for "earth," and then palmed off the whole paragraph as his own. It is probable that Davidson didn't care to bend down humbly and pray exactly as "Elisha did," and present republican tendencies made the change from "earth" to "commerce" seem more in accord with the eternal fitness of things.

**IMPERIALIST DEGENERACY**

From the very beginning of this imperialist craze, The Independent has been warning the people of the effect it would have at home. Many times it has quoted Lincoln's words, "Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it."

Saline county, Illinois, has 300 republican majority, and these republicans under the baleful influence of imperialism have been carrying on a war upon the helpless and inoffensive "niggers" just as the war has been carried on by that party in the Philippines. The Filipinos are "niggers" in the eyes of the degenerate republicans and have no right that a white man is bound to respect. The colored people of Saline county are considered in the same way. So the imperialistic republicans began a war upon them. The Chicago Tribune (stalwart republican) sums up the victories so far gained over these helpless people, (and they are of the same sort that have been gained in the Philippines) as follows:

The Eldorado African Methodist church has been wrecked and its congregation dispersed. The Eldorado public school for colored children has been closed and the pupils driven out of town.

The Eldorado normal and industrial institute, modeled on Booker T. Washington's school at Tuskegee, Ala., has been broken up.

Notice has been posted in Harriburg, the county seat, that all negroes must immediately leave town.

The sheriff and county attorney, both republicans, absolutely refuse to protect these innocent people, against whom no charge is made except that God made them black. When the campaign begins the republican officeholders will go out and denounce the south for cruelty to negroes and demand that the congressional delegations from that part of the union be cut down because the negroes are cheated out of their votes. That is what the party has been doing for a long time. What they do to colored men themselves when they get a chance at them is shown by the above record, and the evidence given before the Philippine committee.

The southerners may not treat the negroes justly, but when a northern, imperialist republican gets at them, he treats them a hundred times worse.

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A school of economics and political science has been inaugurated in London. An additional building was recently opened and the school now has 500 students composed of both men and women. Leading men of the English nation are interested in it. They declare that if England is to retain her trade ascendancy that a thorough knowledge of political economy must be acquired.

A traveling European correspondent of the Springfield Republican says of Odessa, Russia: "Assembled on its wharves we found great quantities of American harvesting machines ready for shipment into the interior, and the American consul told us that one American manufacturer alone had sold \$1,000,000 worth of these machines in Russia last year." Those American harvesting machines are sold to Russians for 50 per cent less than the American farmer can buy them. Vote 'er straight.

The reorganizing democrats had a round-up in New York last week at the launching of what was called the Tilden club. Hill and Cleveland were both there and made speeches. It was said that Bryan was invited, but that he made no reply to the invitation. Cleveland declared that he had retired from politics and Hill gave an outline of what the democratic platform should be. He was down on the trusts and imperialism and was "for hard money as opposed to irredeemable paper currency." What he would do about national bank money, which is the softest of soft money, he did not say.

The republican tendency to "crib" crops out at nearly every state convention. Two years ago at the republican state convention Chairman Jenkins, the doughty colonel from Pete Jansen's county, swiped a lot of supposedly brilliant sayings of Mark Hanna and used them without quotation marks, and at the recent railroad tournament Chairman Davidson, the law-

yer-chess-player-statesman of Johnson county, rendered a sort of left-handed yet sincere homage to Henry W. Grady by adopting Grady's language as his own. One thing is certain—Judge Davidson at least showed better taste than did Colonel Jenkins. It may be a sin to steal, but why steal trash?

The eastern papers and magazines are all talking about "the movement to the country." A few years ago it was a movement to the cities that attracted attention. At that time The Independent said that the rush to cities was caused by the low prices received by farmers for their products which resulted in so much distress on the farms that anything seemed preferable to such unending and unrequited toil. It predicted that when the price of farm products raised to such a point that the workers on the farms could enjoy some of the comforts and blessings of life, the rush to the cities would stop. That is another of The Independent's predictions that has been fulfilled.

The senate has undoubtedly been listening to the unanimous protest of the country concerning the officers who did the fighting at Santiago. The three men to whom the glory of the victory belongs were Admiral Schley, Captain Clark of the Oregon and Captain Cook of the Brooklyn. Crowninshield managed the naval clique so well that officially all these officers were disgraced rather than honored. Now Captain Cook has been made a rear admiral and the senate committee has reported in favor of placing Schley on the retired list with the full pay of admiral. It is said that in a few months when Captain Wise retires, Captain Cook will be made a rear admiral.

The democratic state convention asks the republicans of that state a question which is bound to make the state republicans a lot of trouble. They ask: "Why is it that they permit the steel trust to charge the ship builders of Maine \$1.65 per hundred for the same material which they sell to the English builder for 95 cents, thereby crippling one of our state's leading industries?" There is a lot of ship building done in Maine. They get some foreign contracts to build ships, but Maine ship-builders have to pay 50 cents a hundred more for the American made steel than their foreign competitors. That thing goes to make trouble for your Uncle Mark before this campaign is over.

Government by injunction has made another advance, the tyranny of which was never exceeded in any autocracy on earth. Chief Justice Stines of Rhode Island issued an injunction in behalf of the American Woolen company forbidding the strikers visiting the homes or boarding houses of any of the employes of said plaintiff. When a court gets that far along as to issue orders, which, if disobeyed, will send the person to prison without trial by jury, for visiting other persons of the same calling, it seems that tyranny can go no farther. That is what grows and grows under the government established by the republican party. It is fast making this the land of the slave and the home of tyrants.

Corporation greed never had a better demonstration than the fight that the railroads have made in almost every state in the union against paying their just share of the taxes. They have put up the same sort of a contest in every state that they have in Nebraska. The more they get the more they want. They have increased their net earnings enormously. The Financial Chronicle's compilation for May, covering 91,855 miles of road, shows a gain in gross revenue, against very large figures for a year ago, of \$4,619,227, or 9.18 per cent on a mileage larger by only 1.76 per cent. The anthracite coal roads are not included in the returns, and thus the immediate effects of the strike cannot be known at present.

It has always been accepted as a fact and never denied that the nation that had to pay was the beaten nation. The British had to pay and therefore it is the beaten nation. Not all the skillful, adroit and ingenious writing in American newspapers owned by British and pro-British Americans can blind thinking men to the fact that the British flag is left flying in Pretoria for just the same saving of a remnant of credit that was the motive in displaying it on the battery liberty pole while the redcoats were going away forever from New York. The plain fact that states every man in the face is that \$15,000,000 is paid to the Boers for the permission to have the British flag fly a little longer in the Transvaal and Orange Free State. Lord Kitchener has started for home and it will not be many years until the last imperial British subject will leave the United States of South Africa forever. Mark this prophecy. It is as certain to be fulfilled as that men love liberty.

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