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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.)

Money should be redeemable in all things and all services for hire and not simply in one thing. That is to say, all money should be a legal tender.

The republican party won't turn their thieves and rascals out, so the grand juries and courts have to turn them in—to the penitentiaries. Vido St. Louis and Minneapolis.

Special Envoy Whitelaw Reid did not get to wear his knee breeches after all. Congress will have to make another appropriation to buy him a new pair when the coronation really comes off.

It is a fact beyond dispute that developed at Grand Island that this time it is the democrats who have the Clem Deaver. Will they administer to him the "over-the-transom" treatment that the populists gave their Clem?

The rejoicing of the Chicago republican dailies over the Hopkins' state convention and the repudiation of the Kansas City platform was turned to sadness when the news reached them from Nebraska, Kansas and Minnesota.

The republicans of the house last week unanimously voted against an amendment to prohibit slavery in the Philippines. They call themselves followers of Abraham Lincoln and every mule head actually believes that he is.

The delight of the republican dailies over the fact that the democrats of Illinois ignored the Kansas City platform is so great that they cannot find words to express it. They know that that act makes Illinois solid for the corporations and the Fowler bill.

The Standard Oil trust has raised the price of gasoline 12 1/2 per cent. A campaign is just beginning and your Uncle Mark will need a lot of money during the next few months. So he proceeds to collect from the people money enough to bribe them to vote for straight.

If a populist were shown the two platforms adopted at Grand Island, it would be pretty hard for him to decide which was the populist platform. Then what is the use of keeping up two party organizations? Cleveland, Hill, Indiana and Illinois. That is a sufficient and convincing answer.

Every railroad company in the state has sent its most trusted attorney to work writing briefs in defense of the republican board of equalization and several of them have already been filed. They appear as "friends of the court" to advise it concerning the course it should pursue toward these republican politicians.

Bryan says that the Associated press story that he was invited to attend the Tilden banquet in New York at which Cleveland and Dave Hill appeared and that he refused to reply is absolutely false. He was not invited, but if he had been he would have certainly replied. However his reply to Cleveland which was printed in 'The Independent' last week will answer all purposes.

If it is constitutional to put a 10 per cent tax on oleomargarine, it certainly will be constitutional to put a 10 per cent tax on railroads. If congress should levy such a tax upon them in addition to the taxation of the states, they would immediately become ardent advocates of government ownership and how louder and longer for it than any wild-eyed and long-haired paper ever did.

GRAND ISLAND HOSPITALITY

The fusion forces of the state are under great obligations to the citizens of Grand Island for the hospital reception and courteous treatment that they gave to all who attended the two conventions. They decorated both of the convention halls in an artistic and beautiful way. They kept their eating houses open all night. This writer had occasion to go for a lunch near midnight and three or four times he was met by gentlemen who courteously inquired if he had secured lodgings and entertainment with the statement that they would see to it immediately if he had not. It was learned that a committee of sixty of the best citizens had been appointed to look after entertainment of the delegates and many of them were on the streets all night to see to it that no one was neglected. This committee was composed of men of all parties and they were all equally courteous.

There was one great inconvenience which for a time created some bad feeling among the populist delegates. The hall that was provided for the populists would not hold more than two-thirds of the delegates, but it was the best hall that they had after the opera house had been given to the democrats. When the convention met there was a great crowd of delegates around the door who could not get in. Uncle Jake Wolfe, being rather slow in his motions, was one of those shut out and it was nearly two hours before he could effect an entrance. The delegates on the outside of course felt sorry over the matter. They had traveled long distances and paid out their money for fare and now that they were there with their credentials in their hands they could not get in. The delegates on the outside finally concluded to make the best of it, being convinced that Grand Island had done the very best it could. Then some of them made arrangements to have one or two remain and represent their county and the remainder of them went home on the first train. A big tent would have solved the difficulty.

NEW YORK DEMOCRACY

New York seems to have two democratic organizations. A body of men who called themselves "liberal democrats" held a convention in New York city on the 17th of June. It put forth a platform containing the following:

"We are fundamentally opposed to the present unjust distribution of wealth that creates a system of society in which the few get without working, while the many work without getting; a system which must result in either anarchy or despotism and the total destruction of our republic. This condition is due to the monopoly of natural opportunities and the creation of special privileges by law. We maintain that this government, which was dedicated by the fathers of the republic to freedom and equality of opportunity, shall fulfill its true mission. We demand the opening to all of the opportunities of nature and the abolition of all special privileges. In both of the great political parties of the nation are to be found two irreconcilable factions, one in favor of governmental usurpation, tending to the establishment of a new feudalism, and the other standing for industrial and political liberty."

Now that statement is simply populism and the convention would have done much more effective work if they had then and there organized a populist party for the state of New York. Instead of doing that, they continued their statement in these words:

"In the democratic party of the nation lies the only hope of the perpetuation of democratic institutions. Yet under the leadership of such traitors to democracy as David B. Hill an attempt is being made under the guise of reorganization to dominate the party and to degrade it to the position of a mere tool of monopoly."

The men in this convention were all Bryan men. They could have strengthened Bryan in the east immensely by organizing a populist party that was willing to co-operate with all men who would support the principles embodied in his life and work. The work at Grand Island was the severest blow that the Hill reorganizers ever received. If two tickets had been put in the field in Nebraska it would have been the death of Bryan influence in the east. The dailies would have immediately announced that Bryan had lost his influence with the large class of voters outside of the democratic party that had always had supported him and Hill would have marched on to the control of the democratic organization unresisted.

IMMUTABLE LAWS

The laws of economics are unchangeable, invariable and unalterable. Take the matter of banking and interest rates for an example. If the banks enforce a rate of interest too high, all men depending on credits to do business will in the end become bankrupts, and can no longer do business at all. When the borrowers become bankrupts, the banks will have no customers and they too must of necessity disappear. Banks and business men will go down in ruin together. That is a thing that some bankers have failed to learn. They think that by excessive interest rates

they enrich themselves, which may be true for a time, but in the end it means their destruction. If interest rates are fair, so that the partnership which is entered into between the banks that furnish the money and the men who do the business and take the risks, business men will become prosperous and greater patrons of the banks. If the rate is unfair and the banks get all the profits, then business dies and the banker follows to swift ruin. All commerce must be profitable to both parties. When that law is violated the punishment follows just as certainly as it follows the violation of any natural law. Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you is as much an immutable law of political economy as it is of ethics. In one case, the punishment of its violation is spiritual death and in the other commercial death.

OUR GREATEST EFFORT

Every reader knows of the effort we are making to construct Liberty Building to be a permanent home for the Independent. Work has begun. The foundation is nearly completed. But the construction cannot be pushed as rapidly as it should be for the want of funds. There are several thousand subscribers who owe one or more years for subscription. It has always been our policy to deal generously with all our patrons and readers by giving them all the time necessary for them to pay their subscription. We are glad to extend time when we can, but now we must ask for prompt payments. Carpenters and laborers must have their money as fast as it is earned. The dollar or two dollars that you owe may not seem large, but every one helps on the building pay roll. If your subscription is delinquent please send the amount due by first mail. You'll feel better to have it off your mind.

THE OMAHA PLATFORM

The republicans don't like it at all because the populists at Grand Island endorsed the Omaha platform. They say that conditions have so changed that such an indorsement is ridiculous. Then to prove their statements they quote the following from that platform:

"We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislatures, the congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized; most of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters in the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled; public opinion silenced; business prostrated; our homes covered with mortgages; labor impoverished, and the lands concentrating in the hands of the capitalists."

As a statement of facts at the time, nothing could have been more forceful. The populist plank adopted at Grand Island reads as follows:

"We reaffirm the Omaha, St. Louis and Sioux Falls platforms."

If there had been a newspaper man on the platform committee he would have been a little more careful with his language and have written: We reaffirm the "principles" of the Omaha platform, as was done the last time.

However, many of the conditions then existing, still exist. The demoralization of the people now is even greater than then, the press is still subsidized, public opinion silenced and bribery and corruption have grown with the years. The increase in the volume of money, then demanded by the populists, has been accomplished by the coining of silver in larger amounts than ever before known and the increase in the output of gold, which made the change in the situation that all acknowledge. The "principles" of the Omaha platform are still cherished by all populists and they continue to call it the "New Declaration of Independence."

MARCHING ON

The Chicago Public in discussing the railroad question came to this conclusion: "As possessors of rights of way, they are not private business organizations managing their own private property. They are public agents, officers, servants, or trustees, managing public property; and like other public servants they are accountable to the public for the tolls they receive, for the services they render, and for the property itself. It is neither confiscation nor 'socialism,' therefore, for the public to dislodge them from office and resume its functions."

It seems that about everything in the United States is becoming populist. The position that populists have always held in regard to railroads was never more clearly stated than in the above paragraph. It is, "Forward, March" wherever one turns. The Stuffed Prophet and the relics of a past age who follow him have no place in this advancing civilization. The platforms of the democracy of the west are all substantially in agreement with what populists have been advocating for the last twelve years. The populists have led and the democrats are becoming enthusiastic followers. Everything is all right. We are marching on.

RURAL MAIL DISCRIMINATION

The regulations adopted to govern rural mail carriers in the main are well considered and very liberal to the farming population with the exception of one. To one part of that rule it will be found that the farmers will make a most strenuous objection. The rule is as follows:

"The carrier is not required to collect mail from the boxes, but there is no objection to his doing so if it does not interfere with his making the schedule time. The law provides that every carrier of the mail shall receive any mail matter presented to him if properly prepaid by stamps, and deliver the same for mailing at the next postoffice at which he arrives, but that no fees shall be allowed him therefor."

In that rule there is a very great discrimination between farmers living on mail routes and the city dwellers. The collection of mail from the boxes by the carriers is of just as much importance to commerce and intercourse as the delivery. According to this rule, if a patron stands by the mail box and gives the carrier the letter, the carrier is bound to receive it, and he is forbidden to take a fee for so doing, but he is not forbidden to take a fee for agreeing to stop and take a letter from a box. It will be a great inconvenience to farmers to have to watch for the coming of the mail carrier so as to deliver to him in person their mail. There is nothing in the law that makes this rule necessary. It is simply a discrimination against dwellers in the country and the city, made by the republican officials in Washington, and opens the way to tips to the rural mail carriers which will result in demoralization of the service.

HENRI WATTERSON

Henri Watterson of the Louisville Courier-Journal has done some fine writing lately. It has such excellent literary finish that it has been copied more or less in all kinds of papers. He scored Cleveland in such a manner as only the pen of Watterson could do it and wound up his Philippic by applying to the old Stuffed Prophet these words from Shakespeare:

"I know thee not, old man; fall to thy prayers;
Make less thy body hence and more thy grace;
Know that the grave doth gape
For thee twice wider than for other men."

Then he turned his attention to Bryan and winds up his advice to him with these words. He wants Bryan to go to the next national convention and say:

"I thank you, for all you have done for me, for all you have been to me—I may not be able wholly to agree with you in everything, that you are intending to do and to say—but I am with you heart and soul, and I will go with you, even if you go to perdition!"

It seems to The Independent that Watterson completely fails to comprehend the question that is attracting the attention of the people. This is not a contest between Bryan and Cleveland. If those gentlemen have personal animosities, the people are not interested in them. The question is of a far different sort. It is not Bryan and it is not Cleveland. Every thinking man knows that a condition has arisen in this country which involves great principles of government. Shall the money power rule and the people become hirelings to trusts, or shall the old system of independence among business men continue? That is the question to be decided and not a contest between two men that may be so compromised that they will both become co-workers in the same political party.

What effect would it have if Bryan should go to a democratic national convention and make the statement that Watterson suggests? Would there be any possibility of democratic success, providing that the principles that Bryan advocates were not contained in the platform and a candidate who did not believe in them was nominated? If such a course should be pursued, the democratic party would fall into a state as helpless and powerless as it was for some time after the close of the war. Does Mr. Watterson think that the people have made an idol of Bryan simply because of his personality? Does he believe that if Bryan abandoned his principles, and united with Cleveland and Dave Hill, that the millions who have supported him would vote the democratic ticket just because Bryan continued his membership in that party after it had abandoned the principles, the advocacy of which has made him their idol? All that can be said in regard to persons in this contest is that Cleveland and Mark Hanna stand on one side and Bryan on the other, and that each is a platform within himself.

Among other things Mr. Watterson gives the following advice to Bryan: "He should put on his thinking cap, and, having divested his mind of all surplussage of vanity, self-confidence, pride of opinion, he should commune with himself." Let Mr. Watterson apply that advice to himself. The result would be something like this:

"Let me see about this. The democratic party tried Clevelandism. We had always thought that the south would vote the democratic ticket, and

that is the main reliance now. But will the people of the south do it regardless of principles? When Clevelandism was our policy a new party sprung up in the south. It elected several members of congress and carried two or three states. We had a worse time counting them out than we ever had counting out the niggers. It continued to grow and grow until we abandoned Cleveland and all his ways. Those men are here in the south yet. When Bryan and his principles were presented to the people by the democracy as their principles and their man, all of Mark Hanna's money could not keep them from voting for him. Isn't it probable if we abandon these principles and this man that that same party will spring into existence again and sweep us off our feet? After all, isn't it a fact that if the Kansas City platform is abandoned and a Cleveland-Hill one promulgated in its stead, that it is mighty doubtful whether we can maintain even a solid south? If what the men say up in the northwest is true, we could not carry one of those states. The populists would not vote the ticket. Confound me if I don't believe that this whole proposition is shaky. The fact is that the democratic party would be left in control of less than a dozen states, and they held on the nigger question. Tillman would take South Carolina and go whooping. Georgia and Texas would follow. Marion Butler would pop again in North Carolina. Cyclone Davis, Barney Gibbs, Tom Watson and the whole crew would break loose again. They will accept Bryan, but Cleveland and Dave Hill would set them to tearing the earth up all over the country. Going that way means that we will have the very devil to pay. Guess I will better keep this thinking cap on for a while before I say anything more."

The people of the United States accept the decisions of the supreme court as the law of the land, but that does not indicate that they have any reverence for them. The time was when those decisions were reverently accepted as embodying righteousness and justice. No one feels now like that in regard to them. The income tax decision, the Porto Rico and Philippine decisions have placed the supreme court in an entirely different attitude before the people. This want of reverence for the court began with the Taney decision. Now the judges of that court are not looked upon as wise and learned, but simply as a sort of arbitration committee to settle disputes, and whose decisions are final. When a lawyer formerly addressed the court as "learned" it meant something. In these days it simply is a formality and nothing more.

Republican government in cities has resulted in the most abominable corruption ever known to mankind. We have only to take a glance at Philadelphia, St. Louis and Minneapolis to be assured that the statement is true. In both the latter cities the grand juries have indicted a large part of the republican leadership. The last accounts from Minneapolis were to the effect that most of the police and detectives were under arrest and the mayor had fled. Stand by the God and morality party and vote for straight. That is the only chance. If the democrats and pops should ever come into power they would straightway and with set purpose go to work to bring disaster. That is what they want to do. Every republican says so. Little stealings of a few millions don't count. It is a part of "destiny."

When Dewey announced an obvious truth as a matter of fact which he had personal knowledge and said, "The Filipinos are better qualified for self-government than the Cubans and I know them both," The Independent had some respect for him. When he announced himself as a candidate for president with nothing to recommend him to the people as an administrator but one naval victory, it began to lose respect for him. His recent performances as a witness before the Philippine committee, in whatever light it is viewed, reduces that respect still further. There has been many other performances of his during the last three years which have lessened the respect of all men for him.

The State Journal calls the provision in the Cuban reciprocity bill abolishing the differential tariff put in the Dingley bill for the benefit of the sugar trust an "impertinent amendment." The Journal knows very well that it will never do to be "impertinent" to the sugar trust if the republican party wants to stay in power. The moment that it becomes impertinent to any trust, the campaign contributions will stop.

It does not take much reading between the lines in the Chicago dailies to learn that the consensus of opinion among them is that the Hopkins ticket was nominated for the express purpose of being beaten. Most democrats will come to the conclusion that two republican tickets in the state is one too many and will stay at home on election day.

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

The demand for equality before the law is a far-reaching demand and would if enforced produce a greater reform than most men imagine. The state should furnish the same protection to all its citizens. But the state does not do that. It gives very great advantages to one over another and in a thousand different ways. In the creation of trusts this is very apparent. The state gives a charter to conduct some business, such as was given to the steel trust. The trust offers its stock for sale in the public market and a value is given to it by the action of the state. It is impossible for an owner of a share of stock of his own knowledge to know anything about its value. He buys it and pays his money for it simply on faith which has been inspired largely by the state in granting the charter. He is a part owner in a great business. Thousands of hard working men have paid out their money to become a part owner in the steel business, but they know nothing of how the business is conducted. Enormous salaries are paid to a favored few. The salaries of others are cut down to a bare subsistence. Immense sums are spent for political purposes. In a hundred different ways these part owners are discriminated against.

Now the whole business is a creation of law and all those who are engaged in it should be equal. Every part owner should have access to the books. Theoretically that is the law, but practically it is not. To make the man equal who owns a thousand dollars of steel trust stock to Schwab who owns some millions of it, and draws a million-dollar salary, the law should force the corporation to give publicity to all the facts connected with the business. To that, every part owner is certainly entitled. But this corporation appeals to the public to invest in its stocks. Those who are not part owners, that is the public, when so appealed to should know all the facts. The state having given the corporation prestige by granting it a charter is in honor bound to protect the public. Herein lies the justice of the demand for "publicity." A statement of the affairs of every such concern should be made under the authority of the state. That would make every part owner and the public equal to that extent before the law.

CORPORATION MOURNERS

The leaders of the republicans begin to realize that they are up against the most serious kind of a situation. The magnificent ticket nominated at Grand Island leaves them in this state with nothing to sing except the old, worn-out song: "The democrats have swallowed the pops." "Fusion and confusion." In the nation at large they are just as badly off. Bryan's terrific Philippic on the old Stuffed Prophet and its reception by the people has produced the same effect on the courage of the corporationists as would an overwhelming cavalry charge on an enemy. They simply mourn over the situation. Among the chief mourners is the Kansas City Star. After a sad introduction to the subject in which it claims that the interests of the nation demands a strong and vigorous opposition party and a declaration that Clevelandism alone could furnish it, it says:

"Under the circumstances all who want to see the democratic party restored to its old-time prestige, with possibilities of again securing the reins of government, must realize that they can have nothing more to do with William J. Bryan."

Twice Bryan polled more votes than any democratic leader who ever led a national campaign and the Star well knows that he has today ten followers where Cleveland could muster one. With such a ridiculous statement as the above, it joins the corporation mourners because it cannot down Bryan. It is shedding its tears in vain. It shows that it is not only very sad, but exceedingly silly.

The National Irrigation association is sending out copies of Representative Burket's speech on the irrigation bill. "He vigorously combats the contention," says Secretary Guy E. Mitchell, "of certain eastern statesmen that the irrigation of western lands would be a detriment to the east." A careful reading of Mr. Burket's speech shows it to be a very pretty declamation, well suited for some high school commencement, but containing nothing approaching the dignity of argument. If the irrigation association wants to send out a speech with meat in it, why doesn't it take a look at the one delivered by Representative Shallenberger of the Fifth district?

The economic heights of scientific truth to which the populists have led the democratic party is shown by the platform adopted at the state convention of the democratic party of Minnesota, two planks of which are as follows: "We favor the municipal ownership of public service corporations, the principle of direct legislation, and home rule in local taxation." "We favor the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people and the election to the senate of men only pledged to that reform."

The most sincere mourner in all Nebraska over the outcome of the Grand Island conventions was Chairman Lindsay of the republican state committee. After cogitating over the matter for twenty-four hours he remarked that it was the most brilliant piece of political work ever accomplished in the state.

By a process of evolution the water cure in the Philippines developed into what is known as the "Kerosene cure." It is applied there in the same manner as was the water cure. Here in the states we have it administered in a slightly different form: The Standard Oil trust simply raises the price 12 1/2 per cent.

The action of the democrats in Indiana and Illinois will result in two things: First, there will be overwhelming republican majorities in those states and it will drive thousands more of the honest and thinking voters to the conclusion that maintenance of the populist organization is an absolute necessity.

If there was no other reason why John Powers should be elected secretary of state this one is enough: He will be a member of the board of purchase and supplies. There is where most of the expenditures will be made of the money taxed out of the people. Then there will be no more of such contracts as have been the talk during the last few months.

Our Standard, a democratic paper published at Indianapolis, in speaking of the state convention of that party, says: "What was there about the whole proceedings—preliminary and otherwise—that deserves the title democratic? Not a thing." If democracy means opposition to present republican policies, that editor certainly told the truth.

Because the Illinois democratic platform has some good planks in it is no reason why reformers should vote the ticket. Those reforms would have just as good prospects of being enacted into law by a railroad, republican legislature as by the men who have obtained control of the democratic party in that state. They are all tarred with the same stick. They are simply two peas in one pod. Both of the sets are run in the interest of the money power.

News of the Week

All the world has been discussing the news of the illness of King Edward which forced the postponement of the coronation ceremonies. He was afflicted with something akin to appendicitis and a grave surgical operation had to be performed from which he seems to be recovering with remarkable rapidity. The postponement was a commercial calamity to thousands in England as well as many in this country. The Independent called attention to its commercial aspects some time ago. The shopkeepers of London have their goods left unsold on their hands, large quantities of provisions spoiled and the hospitals were flooded with gifts. Some of the heaviest losses fell upon the publishing interests. The houses issuing weekly and monthly publications had prepared enormous editions in which appeared a description of the ceremonies all written up before hand, including criticism of the opera singers who were to appear on that occasion. The illustrations were numerous and costly and when the king fell ill all this was lost. It was so notorious that no coronation was held that the weeklies and magazines would not do at all. The same is true of several on this side. The whole edition had been printed and was ready for mailing with full description of the scenes and illustrations with pictures on a most extravagant scale. It is all a dead loss. Newspaper men all know what sort of fakes the illustrated weeklies are, but this time the facts were so generally known it was impossible to make the fake go.

The common people of England are far below the same class in this country as was proved by the occurrences of last week. Holidays and festivities were arranged on a large scale for them by the authorities. When the king fell ill and all these things were declared off, there were serious riots in various parts of the kingdom which were difficult in some instances with difficulty. The wage-earners were determined to have their holidays and festivities, well king or sick king, coronation or no coronation. Such a thing could not have occurred in this country. If general festivities had been arranged for an inauguration and the president fell ill requiring a serious surgical operation to save his life, and a man among the wage-workers of this country could have proposed to go on with them, he would have met with some pretty rough handling by his associates.

Congress will probably adjourn before the close of the week and all interest in Washington will cease until the meeting of the next session, save what the president may do. The congressmen will seek their districts and get on the stump. The senators, except the few who must look after the election of the legislature in the states where the vacancies occur, will go on their vacations and take things easy, feeling very happy over the fact that the bill to elect them by a vote of the people has been killed once more.

It has been impossible to find out for a certainty whether the \$22,000,000 of bonds issued to build an isthmian canal can be used by the banks upon which to issue currency or not. If they can be so used, we will soon have \$22,000,000 more of bank paper afloat. On with the dance. The re-