

FOR A UNITED PARTY

ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE TAKES AN IMPORTANT STEP.

Initiative and Referendum in Party Management—The Populist Situation Not Forth—Important Questions to Be Submitted to the Voters.

New Era in Politics.
Populists of the United States have watched with anxiety the outcome of the meeting which was called to convene in St. Louis, and the result certainly indicates that this conference marks an epoch in the history of the party. The initial points of the movement have been that of independent political action and the securing of a government of, for and by the people, and in so shaping the policy of the party and giving strength to the reform movement on lines laid down in the Omaha platform this conference has certainly proven a successful culmination of all that the brightest hopes could have presented in anticipation. A united party on true Populist lines is a consummation most certainly desired.

At this conference not one single point was sacrificed, not one principle abandoned, but on the contrary every weak position was strengthened and a big step forward was taken in giving to the people rights which have heretofore been left solely to political leaders. The referendum is the only hope of relief from political corruption, and the incorporating of this into party management is a grand step forward.

This action, says the Chicago Express, is the turning point in American politics which will lead up to a solution of all problems by reference to the people. There is much work to do and the referendum committee named at St. Louis needs the earnest co-operation of the people everywhere, but we have an abiding faith in the millions who make up the rank and file; and believe that their appreciation of justice and right will prompt them to united action. The People's party has a course outlined which is purely its own, and that means the rule of the people and the dethronement of the professional boss.

It was in response to a call issued Nov. 23, 1897, by the National People's party organization committee that the conference was held. The meeting was called to order by Milton Park, chairman, who stated briefly that the object of the meeting was the rallying of all members of the party who believe that the cardinal principles of populism can only be maintained by the independent action of the people's party without fusion with either of the old organizations. W. S. Morgan was elected secretary and Hadley of Minnesota, assistant.

The morning session was taken up by the report of committees on organization and the appointment of a committee of twelve to outline a method of procedure and prepare an address to be submitted to the people of the United States.

The afternoon session of the conference was devoted to reports from the different States and an interchange of opinions as to the results of past party action and the prospects for future work on Populist lines. The opinion was freely expressed that every indication pointed toward a united and harmonious People's party pledged to act independently and on lines laid down in the Omaha platform, the people of all parts of the country realizing that there was but one hope of final success and that was through straightforward work. On Thursday the report of the committee of twelve was submitted, and after a few suggestions and changes was adopted.

The address concludes by saying: Having in vain implored those who assumed to be our superiors to permit us to aid them in the grand work of reorganizing the People's party, that it may accomplish its glorious mission, we now appeal to the people, the true source of all political power, and submit to them the determination of the following propositions:

First—We recommend that township and county conventions be held in every State not later than the last Wednesday in May, 1898, and that State conventions be held not later than the first Wednesday in June, 1898.

Second—That at said conventions propositions be submitted as to the advisability of holding a national convention pending the campaign of 1898, and also the date for a national convention to nominate Presidential candidates.

Third—That at the State conventions delegates to a national convention be elected.

Fourth—That the basis of representation for such convention be two delegates from each State and one additional for each 2,000 largest actual Populist vote or majority fraction thereof cast at any election in 1892 or since.

Fifth—We request that on the second Wednesday in June, 1898, the national committee of the People's party convene and carry out the instructions of the referendum vote herein provided.

Sixth—That a committee of five be appointed for the purpose of taking a referendum vote of the members of the People's party, by ballot, on the above propositions, and to perfect and put in operation a plan by which such vote may be taken, and through which future propositions may be submitted to the people. And said committee is hereby instructed to begin at once taking the ballot on the propositions and report the result by May 1, 1898.

The following questions are submitted:

Do you favor a national convention being held pending the campaign of 1898 for the purpose of promoting the

wellness and declaring the future policy of the party?

What date is your choice for holding a national convention for the purpose of nominating Presidential candidates—July 4, 1898; May 20, 1898; or February 22, 1898?

Gold and Free Coinage.

"If we were to open our mints to the free coinage of silver, what would prevent a man from bringing silver from Europe, having it coined into American dollars, depositing the dollars at a New York bank and then taking gold exchange on London, thus draining us of our gold?" Such a question could be taken as a text for quite an exhaustive discussion of the whole monetary problem, but it can be sufficiently answered in a very few words. There would be no motive for such a transaction, and in business men never do anything without a motive. In the first place, Europe has no silver that would be available for the purpose. Her product is not enough to make good the wear and tear of her small change. Her silver coin is worth from \$1.32 to \$1.48 per ounce in gold where it is and to send it here for coinage, bearing the expense of transportation and loss on lightweight coins, to have it recoined into American money at \$1.29 per ounce would involve a tremendous and foolish sacrifice. If we consider the silver of other countries, there would still be a total absence of any intelligent motive. At the American bank, the silver would buy no more gold exchange on England than it is worth. If the two metals were exactly at par with each other, and exchange were also at par, it would simply be an equal trade, with no loss or gain on either side. If there were a heavy demand for London exchange (as there would be in the case supposed), the rate would go above par, and then the transaction would involve a loss. That is to say, instead of getting a one pound bill of exchange for \$4.86 in American money, the purchaser would have to pay \$4.87, \$4.88 or more. This would be true, whether gold or silver were deposited at the American bank. London exchange is almost constantly varying now, as the demand for blue varies.

Trusts Kill Competition.

In many lines of business there is no longer any such thing as competition. What is going to be done about such kinds of business? Are the people going to sit down supinely and become the slaves of the trusts, or will they arouse themselves and become the masters of all these great combinations of capital?—Star and Kansan.

Social Revolution Coming.

The social revolution is bound to come. It will either come in full panoply of law, and surrounded with all the blessings of peace, provided the people have the wisdom to handle and introduce it betimes; or it may break in upon us unexpectedly, amid all the convulsions of violence, with wild, disheveled locks, and shod in iron sandals. Come it must, in one way or the other. When I withdraw myself from the turmoil of the day and dive into history, I hear distinctly its approaching tread.—Lassalle.

McKinley's Wrong Impression.

Mr. McKinley seems to be laboring under the impression that he was elected President of Spain. The President says that "Not an American is now confined in a Spanish prison." Perhaps not. A few were to have been pardoned, and the rest have been starved to death or murdered. Perhaps the McKinley administration is real sorry that Mr. George Washington and his associates refused to accept autonomy about three generations ago.

Populist Notes.

What the people use most, the people should own.—Cicero.

Let every Populist now unite for early, earnest and thorough work.

If we want beautiful men and women we must have beautiful conditions.—Bene Tillet.

He who casts a vote to give the poor a chance to make an honest living does a wrong for the Lord.—New Era.

Monopoly in all its forms is the taxation of the industries for the support of indolence, if not of plunder.—John Stuart Mill.

Congress is to be urged to pass a bankrupt law. There is every indication that the Treasury Department is in need of one.

I very positively can inform you the considerable part of the misery of the world comes of the tricks of unjust taxation.—Ruskin.

The whole country is in a death struggle with corrupt political bossism and the referendum offers the only hope of escape.—Chicago Express.

A commodity is worth the labor of making it—no more. Labor should form the basis of the measure of value, because it is the source of value.—Coming Nation.

He who has a right to live has a right to food by which to live and land by which to live.—Washington Gladden, pastor First Congregational Church, Columbus, O.

We are told that the evidences of a revival of business are here. That may be true, but what we want is the revival itself, the other fellows can have the evidences.—Bradford Silver Star.

One hundred and twenty-seven thousand factory workers in the New England States have had their wages cut and are to-day wondering how it happens that a high tariff so amply protects American labor.

Suicide has increased 300 per cent. in this country in three years—from 2,049 in 1893 to 6,520 in 1896. Of course these are effects without any cause! The social system with its inevitable concentration of wealth has nothing to do with it!—Appeal to Reason.

SASHES AND SKIRTS.

THESE ARTICLES NOW DEMAND CAREFUL ATTENTION.

The Girlish Is Again in Great Vogue and It Is Used with Many Modifications—Some Pretty Substitutes—Three Skirts Described and Pictured.

Girliness Succeds Dusk.

New York correspondence:

RUNES and prizes are again the secret practice of rosy lips, that their expression may match the gown worn, and the feature of the evening or dancing dress that is most characteristically ingenious in its sash. All sorts of lovely materials come now by the yard, made in series of little ruffles. The sort of thing that would mean hours of dressmaker work, even with a machine, is now in place with a rush, a bang, and a row or two of stitching. The following materials are but a few of the newest in the available list:

Black net ruffled with little frills of black net spangled with gold is just a half-yard wide, the little frills running across the width, and makes an adorable sash with the loops made of plain black net. Such a sash has to be made up, of course, and the fancy just now is for the regular tie sash. White net is covered with ruffles of white chiffon, pleated closely, and then the edge of each ruffle is finished with narrow lace, set on after the pleating of the frill. Liberty silk is frilled with chiffon, edged with baby ribbon set on every frill. There is a look of elaboration about all these sorts, and the height of ingenuity is reached by a plainer kind—one like that pictured beside the initial, for instance. This was light pink silk, the dress itself being white silk.



THREE SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTES FOR THE SASH.

In all of the befrilled sashes the frill is pleated closely, and the edging is set on after the frilling. Whole skirts are made of such frilled material, and it takes an artist to match the frills. The material is so wide that the width makes the length of the skirt, the frills running lengthwise, is used, but the effect is not so swaggy as that produced by fitting narrow widths into a much gored skirt, the frills all matching. Sashes of the dress goods, too, elaborated with chiffon or ribbon, or with both, are sometimes quite as highly wrought as are the pleated and frilled sorts. In the second picture, which presents a dancing dress of turquoise blue corded silk, the handsome sash was of the silk covered with white figured chiffon, and banded at end and sides with black velvet ribbon to harmonize with the gown's trimming.



SASHED GIRLISHLY.

This skirt was trimmed at the knees with two deep, box-pleated flounces of white chiffon and black ribbon heading. Three smaller ruffles garlanded the hips. The bodice had a square cut-out, and below the bust were two deep ruffles. Bands of the ribbon were placed across the bust and started from shoulders to the waist line, ending below the knees on the skirt. The gathered sleeves were turquoise blue figured chiffon, and the belt consisted of two

bands of the ribbon ending at the back with the ends already described.

While there is general use of sashes tying in back and reaching nearly to the hem of the skirt, there are other ways a plenty to finish the waist of a dancing dress acceptably. Three very tasteful dresses are put in one picture here, and it will be seen that no one of them has a sash. Little ribbon ties are also in vogue; some of them pass once about the waist, tying at the side, the loops set up and down, at once studied and careless; again ribbon is draped elaborately about the waist, binding the waist closely in the front tie, and then looping loosely about the hips.



A CUT HAVING MANY EXAGGERATIONS.

with bows swinging well down toward the hem of the skirt. Some gowns are cut with the old-time overdress idea in view, and the back of the overdress is lifted short and divided into a pair of ends that tie with sash effect at the back. These are the three types pictured.

Don't be persuaded that all skirts are trimmed; they are not. Street skirts are mostly plain, though they may be embellished with braiding, and party and house gowns have skirts plain or not, exactly as each wearer likes. Accordion-pleated materials are used for skirting, the lines of the pleats falling

CLAIMS TO BE 140 YEARS OLD.

Georgia Negro Who Says He Remembers the Revolution.

Samuel Andrew Gibbons is an old negro, who, if his claims are true, is the oldest living native of Chatham County. Gibbons says that he is 140 years old and that he was 17 years old when the revolutionary war began.

A reporter met Gibbons on Bay street yesterday and had quite a little chat with him. He does not begin to look as old as he claims to be, but he gives circumstantial details which go to prove him a very old man. A peculiar feature of his story is that he says that up to a month ago, when he returned here, he had not been in Savannah for seventy years. The old man is not in his dotage by any means, and uses pretty good English.

"I was born on a Fairlawn plantation, over that way (west of the city)," he said, "and I belonged to William Gibbons. The Gibbonses owned a whole lot of property here then. I s'pose they own some of it yet. I used to run a barber shop right over on that corner," pointing to the corner of Bay and Montgomery streets.

"I don't know the names of the streets now, 'cept one or two. They didn't have all these streets when I left here. That street they called South Broad used to be the common where the soldiers mustered. They had a market here then, but it was a wooden building. I don't know whether it was the same square the market is now on or not.

"Yes, sir, I was here when the first revolution in the United States of America took place. I was 17 years old then."

"You saw General Washington, of course?"

"Yes, sir; I saw him. All the people turn out to see him, and they freed him."

"Did you see Lafayette?"

"Yes, sir. He was the man they put down carpets in the streets for him to walk on. They had a big gathering in Monument Square and a whole lot of soldiers. They don't treat Presidents now like they used to."

The old man was evidently under the impression that Lafayette was a President.

"I was sold away from here seventy years ago," he said, "and brought \$600. I have been living all about in Florida and Alabama ever since. I remember the falling stars. That was seventy years ago."

The old man was positive in all his statements, and could not admit that he might be mistaken in any of his facts.

"I left a daughter in Florida when I went to Alabama," he said. "She was just big enough to tie in a napkin. I went back there the other day and found her, and her hair was whiter than mine."

This statement, if true, would appear to be pretty good evidence of very old age. If the old man was, as he says, 17 years old when the revolution began, he would be 139 years old to-day, so that his statement that he is 140 would not be much out of the way. His statement that the "falling stars" occurred seventy years ago is not far wrong. The great meteoric shower occurred in 1833; that is, sixty-four years ago. He gives a circumstantial account of this event, which is not remarkable, however, as, according to his own account, he must have been an old man then.—Savannah News.

The Mysterious Assassin.

One night, shortly after the celebrated battle of Pontenoy, its hero, Marshal De Saxe, arrived at a little village in which was an inn with a peculiar reputation. It was said that in this inn there were ghosts who stabbed or strangled all who attempted to pass the night in a certain room.

The conqueror of Pontenoy was far from being susceptible to superstitious terrors, and was ready to face an army of ghosts. He dismounted, ate his supper, and went up to the fatal room, taking with him his arms and his body servant.

His arrangements completed, the Marshal went to bed, and was soon in a profound slumber, with his sentinel ensconced in an arm chair by the fire.

About 1 o'clock in the morning the watcher by the fire, wanting to get some sleep himself, approached his master to awaken him, but to his call he received no response. Thinking the Marshal soundly asleep he called again. Startled at the continued silence, the man shook him; the Marshal did not stir.

As he lifted his hands from the form in the bed, the frightened servant saw that they were red. The Marshal was lying in a pool of blood! Drawing down the cover the soldier saw a strange thing. An enormous insect was fastened to the side of De Saxe, and was sucking at a wound from which the blood flowed freely.

The man sprang to the fireplace, grasped the tongs, and ran back to the bed. Seizing the monster, he cast it into the flames, where it was instantly consumed.

Help was called, and the Marshal was soon out of danger; but the great General, who had escaped fire and steel for years, had barely escaped dying of the bite of an insect. He had found the ghost.

Ruskin on the Bicycle.

John Ruskin, who is opposed to railroads because they disfigure rural scenery, and for other reasons, objects also to all forms of cycling. His language is quite radical: "To walk, to run, to leap and to dance are virtues of the human body, and neither to stride on stilts, wriggle on wheels, nor dangle on ropes, and nothing in the training of the human mind with the body will ever supersede the appointed God's ways of slow walking and hard working."

Nebraska Notes

Gordon people are organizing a stock company to build an opera house.

Chadron has an institute devoted to the theory and practice of osteopathy.

The new Methodist church at Hartington will be dedicated on the 30th inst.

The new waterworks system at Havelock has been tested and proven satisfactory.

Auburn reports the most successful farmers' institute ever held in Nemaha county.

Elm Creek Methodists will dedicate their new church building Sunday, January 29.

William Davidson of Knox county has fallen heir to a fortune of \$500,000 in England.

Several cases of scarlet fever are reported from Gering, but no fatalities up to this date.

The Shickley Herald wants the village board to pass an ordinance prohibiting the raffie nuisance.

Postmaster Joe Paradis, of Alliance, has sold his newspaper, The Guide, to H. S. Ellis, of the Times.

A prairie fire near Minatara destroyed 50 tons of hay and left several ranchmen in a very bad plight.

Hardy and Republic played a game of football last Saturday, resulting in Hardy 6 to Republic 0.

Emma Holey, a Battle Creek little girl, died from the effects of getting a sandbur lodged in her throat.

The treasurer of Scott's Bluff county received \$469 as his lawful percentage of the taxes collected last year.

Mrs. Schritzmier of Custer county died from the effects of a surgical operation for the removal of a uterine cancer.

Ashland proposes to open the new year by organizing a local board of trade to talk up the advantages of that place.

The north Nebraska teachers will hold their spring meeting at Norfolk the last two days in March, and the first day of April.

The Wallace Tug has been reduced in size to a five column folio, and the editor says it is still one size larger than its income.

Beaver City is moving for an electric light plant; parties are ready to put it in upon a reasonable guarantee of patronage.

Pawnee City proposes to have a telephone exchange and that end recommends there are freely subscribing for instruments.

Diphtheria is prevailing to some extent at West Point and precautions are being taken to keep all cases in the strictest quarantine.

Orleans is another town in the Republican valley that is going to have a creamery station as one of the improvements of the year.

The Wisner Chronicle feels the effect of restored confidence, and has lately invested its comfortable surplus in a power printing press that cost \$1,000.

A band of antelope has been seen several times lately in the vicinity of Lodge Pole. Hunters have been after them, but fortunately have killed none up to date.

The supervisors of Buffalo county are seriously threatening to cut down their salary to one-sixth legal rates and cry and worry along on thirty-three cents a day and mileage.

Grain dealers in many parts of Nebraska complain that they cannot secure any corn. In many places feeders are making it all and in others farmers are holding for higher prices.

Real estate mortgages in Phelps county were decreased in 1897. New mortgages filed amounted to \$165,587, and the releases amounted to \$229,569.01. Two days in March and the first day of April.

Neligh claims to have the present title king of the state in the person of J. J. Anderson who has purchased 25,000 head of cattle. His present investment in stock represents the sum of \$175,000.

Ed Fry of the Niobrara Pioneer has secured an injunction against the county board to prevent the letting of the printing contract to another newspaper after he plaintiff had performed a small fraction of the work required.

Several Kearney electricians have organized a club among themselves for the study of practical electrical problems with Professor Morey and George W. Frank, Jr., as instructors. The club meets every Friday evening.

In a friendly shuffle on Tuesday evening Charles Ernests of Howells fell and broke his right leg just above the ankle. Dr. Buzick was called and reduced the fracture and Charles is now getting along as well as could be expected.

The Broken Bow Chief was awarded the county printing at one cent per square for legal notices, one and three-fourths cents for land descriptions and one-tenth of a cent for town lots. Commissioner's proceedings are printed free. This is the way newspaper men saw off their own legs to cripple their loathsome contemporaries.

Mrs. Arthur Coley of Neligh, a short time since received notice that there was a sum of money amounting to \$2,500 available from her mother's estate in England, and that the amount would be paid her upon making the proper proofs. A man named Mitne of Dawes county fell and broke his shoulder blade, but did not discover the nature of his injury for three weeks. Finding the injury did not get well as fast as he thought it should he consulted a surgeon who informed him of its true nature.