

with matters of reform. The democratic and populist parties in 1896 took a stand upon the money question that must as I believe be vindicated in the future.

It is now acknowledged by those who in 1896 expressed the belief that we had plenty of money, that the volume of money has been augmented by late discoveries in gold, and from other causes. But in spite of this increase in money they tell us that times are much better. They are forced to say times are better and doubly accuse their party of being in error. Democrats and populists can very consistently admit the fact and point to it with pride. It proves the wisdom of their contention that more money was needed to produce better times. No one should say that, the improvement in conditions is due wholly to the increase in gold. It may very well be said to be one of causes, but not the only one. Now I maintain that during the assumption of hard times is the most opportune time to make preparation against their return. When the lions are fast asleep is the best time to escape from the den. I do not say men are most liable to act while enjoying relief, but I do say they should do so.

It is consistent with the familiar saying, "In times of peace prepare for war." The election of 1904 is not far distant. It would certainly be unwise in me to offer advice to the more able in politics, but surely I can be pardoned for saying to those of my own sphere that in view of our nearness to election, we should be watchful and vigilant. We will have to choose, as it now appears, between reorganizers one side and real democrats on the other. I owe them no apology for discriminating between them and democrats. They themselves are chargeable with it all. They deserted the party in 1896 and that, too, after trying to disrupt the plans of the party in the Chicago convention.

Then, after four years in which to repent they were afforded an opportunity to "bring forth fruits meet for repentance."

They refused to do so or to assist the party in the smallest imaginable way. Not satisfied with another decided stand taken by the two parties in 1900, they are still trying to rob us of our convictions. Manifestly they should be pardoned for a mere disagreement with us, but they cannot be pardoned if because of this disagreement they try to steal the party name. If they, being in the minority, can dictate a policy for the party, what becomes of majority rule? After trying in vain to steal the name "democrat" they even made fun of the name "populist."

I do not expect them to gain control, but unless the voters cut them off by instructing delegates to conventions they can do even more harm than they have done. Just before the last congressional election, I wrote to the democratic candidate for congress in a certain district in Indiana asking him a number of questions. My purpose was to discover his attitude to the Kansas City platform. I made inquiry of his opinion concerning the Fowler bill, the election of United States senators, etc. I received a letter from him saying he had been in my city to see me, but owing to other engagements had to leave without accomplishing his purpose. He expressed a desire to talk with me along the lines indicated in my letter to him. I am not aware that he made any further effort to satisfy me regarding his position.

However, I made it my business to hear him speak. This had the effect of convincing me that he was making a much stronger bid for the support of the reorganizers than for the support of real democrats. If he had been strictly honest and at the same time differed from the reorganizers in sentiment, he would have been compelled to take a decided stand against them.

He was defeated. This is given as a sample of how I think the voters should deal with their candidates. Let us hope that by the next election we will be found a united body the better to safeguard the interests of the American people. Let us show them that the democratic and populist parties will not kneel in sackcloth and ashes at the feet of Cleveland, Hill, Watters or any other traitor to his country's cause. Let us show them that in their effort to kill the money question they have killed themselves.

S. W. SETTLE.

Gas City, Ind.

**The Single Tax**

Editor Independent: I have just received a copy of your issue of December 18 with a marked article referring to my communication "not for publication." Had I written that article for publication it would have been done with greater care. Your

**WILSHIRE'S VERY LATEST \$3,143 For Our Friends NO BLANKS - EVERYBODY WINS**

**WE** NOW have one hundred thousand subscribers, and want two hundred thousand more, and appeal to every reader to help us secure them in the shortest time possible.

To accomplish this we have decided to continue to sell our yearly subscription postal cards to agents, each card good for a full year's subscription to WILSHIRE'S MAGAZINE, at 25 cents each, in lots of eight or over. Here is an opportunity to make money selling the cards and to help along the good work.

We are going to give a large number of valuable prizes to the agents purchasing the largest number of cards before May 1st, 1903.

**PIANO** To the person selling the largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give a Harvard Upright Cabinet Grand Piano, 7 1/2 Octaves, Three Pedals, Ivory Keys, Graduated Pedals, including soft-stop practice pedal. Beautiful Colonial design, mahogany, walnut or oak, with hardwood back. Full swing music desk, rolling fall-board with continuous hinge. Height, 4 feet 6 inches. Length, 5 feet 2 inches. Width, 2 feet 3 inches; made by the famous John Church Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, known the world over for the superior excellence of their instruments. Catalogue with full description may be had by writing the John Church Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. Price . \$350

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**BILLIARD TABLE** To the person selling the fifth largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give a Combination Dining or Library Table and Billiard and Pool Table, two-thirds standard size. Massive, of solid oak, golden finish and strictly high-class, of excellent playing quality. It is quite popular as a dining table. It has a removable top and is fitted with imported French billiard cloth, solid rubber billiard cushions. Dimensions of the table: Top, 3x5 1/2 feet, slate bed, 32x64 inches inside the rails; extra dining top, 4x8 feet. Shipping weight, boxed securely, about 400 pounds. Fitted with four ivory billiard balls, cues, chalk and tips, or fifteen pool balls, cue ball, triangle, etc. Price . \$50

**POOL TABLE** To the person selling the sixth largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give a decidedly attractive and typical Dutch Library table. This table is supplied with a beautiful and removable top, made of selected oak, weathered finish; is fitted with fine rubber cushions, French billiard cloth, and with extra dining top; is ideal for the home, a summer cottage or club resort. Dimensions of table, 3x5 1/2 feet; slate bed, 32x64 inches inside the rails. Approximate shipping weight, securely boxed, 350 pounds. Billiard outfit: four genuine ivory two-inch billiard balls, standard color; billiard counters; four selected maple cues; chalk and extra tips; or fitted as a Pool outfit, fifteen solid composition, fancy striped pool balls, numbered; one white cue ball; four select maple cues; one triangle; chalk and extra tips; patent invisible pockets. Price . \$45

To the person selling the eighth largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give the most perfect portable Billiard and Pool Table made. Beautiful and rich in design, highly polished, mahogany finish or quartered oak. Combination billiard and pool table. Scientifically constructed the same as most expensive tables. Solid rubber cushions. Easily moved to and from the top of the dining-room table. Covered with imported French billiard cloth, 3 feet by 5 1/2 feet. Complete pool and billiard outfit, with four cues, triangle, chalk and tips, four ivory balls, counters, etc. Complete description of all these tables will be found in catalogue, which can be obtained by applying to the makers, The Combination Billiard Mfg. Co., 926 New Claypool Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind. Price \$30

**BILLIARD TABLE**

To the person selling the seventh largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give a University Reclining Chair, beautifully upholstered, and fitted with a book-rest and adjustable back and arms that can be converted into firm, wide shelves for writing, holding books, etc. Descriptive catalogue can be had by writing to the manufacturer, George Sargent & Co., 280 Fourth Avenue, New York. Price . \$43

**CHAIR**

To the person selling the ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give an open-face stem-winding, stem-set, gold-filled Watch. A first-class, accurate timekeeper that with ordinary wear will last a lifetime. Will be suitably inscribed. \$25 each . \$125

**WATCH**

To the persons selling the 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give first-class Bicycle, either lady's or gentleman's wheel, standard make. Price \$25 . \$125

**BICYCLE**

To the persons selling the 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d and 23d largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give one of the celebrated "Al-Vista" Cameras, for time and snapshot exposures, fitted with extra rapid rectilinear lens, brilliant view-finder, rotating and showing exactly what will appear on the negative. With it you can make 2 1/2-inch by 4 1/2-inch or 3-inch by 9-inch pictures. Has indicator showing when film is brought into place for each exposure. Heavy nickel fittings, covered with finest black morocco leather and beautifully finished. Price, \$29 each. Total . \$100

**CAMERA**

**CONSOLATION PRIZES**

**MORE GIVEN AWAY** To everyone entering this contest, and purchasing twenty yearly subscription cards or over, and failing to win one of the prizes above, we will give a substantial prize for their efforts that will be sure to please. **No one entering this contest will be disappointed.** All will be profited both on the sale of cards, and the prizes awarded, besides the great satisfaction of helping forward the happy day we are all working for. Send a \$2 bill for eight cards.

**TOTAL, \$3,143 GIVEN AWAY**

Yearly subscriptions at 25 cents each, sent in a letter, count the same as yearly cards purchased. Send in your first list of subscribers and make a start for a valuable prize. Remember, everybody sending twenty yearly subscriptions receives a prize. No blanks. No dissatisfaction.

**WILSHIRE'S MAGAZINE, 125 E. 23d ST., NEW YORK CITY**

article does me great injustice in concluding that because on some particular occasion, a man can see that the way things are shaped there is no reason to be settled at the polls, he takes no interest in public affairs, and is, therefore, a "dangerous citizen." I still contend, and the evidence is in abundance and is being forced upon us every day that there is almost no limit to the charges the railroads can make, and when I assert that they have the power to take back in rates \$2 for every \$1 we proposed to get from increased tax, I assert what everybody who has paid any attention to the matter knows to be true. I think the extra charge in coal alone this year will more than equal the proposed increase of tax.

Now let us take another glance at the Omaha plank. I quoted from memory, but I got it right, as to meaning, if not the exact words. The first clause of the first sentence of that plank covers the entire ground. The other two clauses follow as a matter of course and a score of similar ones might have been added as conclusion from the first clause. Here is that first clause as given by yourself:

"The land including all the natural sources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people." You say that the single tax is not a populist idea; I say that declaration in the Omaha platform is the foundation on which the single tax doctrine is founded. The single tax is simply a proposed method of carrying out that truth. You

say, in reference to the Omaha platform, there is a word about common ownership of land. Well, the above quotation is as much a declaration of common ownership as anything to be found in the single tax. I cannot admit as correct your assertion as to the position of the single taxers on the railroad question. I am first a single taxer, but am as much in favor of government ownership of railroads as you or any other man.

Government ownership is coming so surely, so fast, as the result of conditions, as hardly to need an advocate. It is simply a necessity and cannot be prevented. This much in regard to your remarks upon my letter. I will gladly accept your offer to hear from the single taxers as to the so-called trusts.

Please permit me to say that there is, in my opinion, one new inexpensive, and effectual way to whip the republicans to a finish and that is in the nation and in all states when they are in the majority not to put up a man against them. The great Napoleon was never so badly beaten as when he went to Russia and found no one to fight. Senator Allen said in his speech here in October that the conditions in the past few months have made more populists than 10,000 orators could make in 10 years. We want no half way reforms, but let organized plutocracy (which is the republican party) have its entire and undisputed sway and the desired reforms will soon be forced upon the people. I have little hope of any reform com-

ing any way but through the acts of oppression and wrong. I know of none in history, do you?  
E. B. SPACKMAN.

Fullerton, Neb.  
(Mr. Spackman asserts something which a good many people who have paid considerable attention to the matter, know is not true. Mr. Spackman knows very well that thousands of bushels of potatoes were left in the fields last year because rates were so high that they could not be shipped. The rate on potatoes was more than the traffic would bear—and it did not bear it. If the freight rate on corn should be doubled or trebled, shipments would fall off amazingly. Farmers would be compelled to burn corn instead of coal—something they generally do when corn rates are above what the traffic will bear—and, indeed, many town people would burn corn, because it would be much cheaper than coal for fuel. It is the rankest nonsense to say that a railroad cannot be taxed. If otherwise, why do the companies spend so much time and money trying to keep their taxes down? At present the traffic is bearing an increase in rates. It cannot do so indefinitely. But if the levy of railroad taxes last year had been twice what they were, the present rates would have been no higher than they are. Railroad stockholders, however, would have been obliged to content themselves with smaller dividends.—Ed. Ind.)

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