

The Common Party

Editor Independent: In offering a solution to the trust question which is being universally demanded by the American people irrespective of party affiliations, it becomes necessary first to locate the evil and then to apply the remedy. And first, what is a trust? A trust may be defined to be a corporation of men, criminally selfish, operating under special privileges which give them a monopoly in trade and business. The present action of the coal trust and the action of the money trust in '96 are fair examples of this class.

This class of men have obtained partial control of the democratic party and absolute control of the republican party. The republican party today as a political organization is an aggregation of trusts. There is not a trust in the United States but what is represented in the leadership of the republican party. That faction of the democrat party dominated by the trusts and known as "reorganizers" are a part of the republican organization from a business standpoint; their interests are identical and their vote in '96 proves it. This is why the republicans are so anxious about the success of reorganizing the democratic party and so extravagant at this time in their praise of Grover Cleveland. With the democratic party reorganized and Grover at the head, unwinding some of his old stereotyped tariff expressions, followed by David B. Hill shouting "I'm a democrat" and the republicans led by "old strenuousness shacking cunning," the fight would be an easy one for the trusts. Being the organization of both parties they could not help but win.

Then to apply the proper remedy would be to kill the louse that makes the nits. That is to say the democratic party must not be reorganized and the republican party must be driven from power and the government turned over to the people. Grover Cleveland's ghost dances must cease and he be reconsigned to the political tomb from which his business associates, the trusts, have lately resurrected him. Nor should we cover his grave with oblivion. Far from it. We should be so kind and generous as to erect over his political dust this passing tribute which he so nobly won and justly deserves: "Mourning by mongrels, loved by republican leaders, hated by democrats and damned by the whole American people."

Having cleared the ground of all obstructions between the people and the republican party, the democrats, populists and all people who are opposed to trusts should unite in one common cause and move in solid phalanx against the republican party. All this can be accomplished by fusion if we can keep the mongrels out of the next democratic national convention. But just as long as the democracy is cursed with these half breeds just that long will the people lack confidence in the party and fusion will prove a failure. The proper way to dispose of this class is for the voters in every precinct to guard their organizations against any and all impositions from this source. If this cannot be done, or if they have already obtained partial control of the various local organizations, then rest assured they will be with us in the next national convention and while they may not be able to control the convention they will, by their presence and clamor, destroy all confidence the people might have in the democratic party and fusion.

Should such be the humiliating position of the party at that time then surrender the name but cling to the principles of democracy and the cause of the American people and let all unite under the banner of the Common Party. The call should be to the American people and the platform drafted should be in strict accordance with their demands. Party prejudice would, under the new party name, give way to sober thought and action, and the forces, seeking the same redress, now scattered and divided, would be united in one invincible body moving on to sure and certain victory.

As for the name, there cannot be anything distasteful about it since it is the common people that are made to suffer at the hands of organized greed. And as the common people include every class except the privileged few, I, for one, should not object to being called a "commoner." Let us hear from others. J. MARION LONG.

Versailles, O.

Guessed Too High

Editor Independent: The time has long passed when I should have reported upon Liberty Building cards sent last June. To tell the truth, I feel ashamed of my mistake in believing that I could dispose of so many. It is not so much my mistake

as it is that of our people in not taking them. It looked then and I have not changed my mind—that a canvass of this county ought to place five hundred cards, with no reform paper in the county worthy of the name. A splendid wheat crop, it looked like a missionary field ripe for such a paper as The Independent, but not so. I found men all over the county with cards who stated that they could not dispose of them. All manner of excuses were given. The stereotyped one was, "I take more papers than I have time to read."

The plutocrats are placing their venal sheets in every populist home; possibly 25 to 50 cents is the price, but in many instances they are sent free. They even have the gall to send them to my address. I return the cards asking you to send statement of how much I owe you and I will at once forward the amount.

No republican legislature in the history of the state has ever been up against it, equally hard as the present one. If they can worm through their dilemma, rendering due service to their masters and fooling their constituents, "mullet head" will be a mild cognomen for said constituency. Believing, as they do, that they safely have the state, I look for them to arrange for a constitutional convention to revise the constitution more to the liking of the corporations. If this is done, a fight for our very existence will be on.

JONATHAN HIGGINS,
Cambridge, Neb.

Ask Twice

Editor Independent: I quote from The Independent of February 19, page 13: "While most people will take half a loaf in preference to no bread, yet in asking for bread it is best to demand all you want."

That won't always do. It will, in a political sense, land you in the mud nine times out of ten. The people's "servants" not having been trained that way will not respond. During the "training" of them to believe that doctrine, which is fundamentally sound, better ask twice—with a "wait" between—and get "two half loaves." You will in substance have a whole loaf—and no one but yourself will seem to know it!

FRANCIS KEYES,
Longmeadow, Mass.

Who Gets It?

Editor Independent: Here is a question I would like to have you answer through your paper: The republicans say that there is only 50 cents in a silver dollar. Please say who gets the other 50 cents.

WM. B. HAMILTON,
Idalia, Colo.

(Our dollar is the unit of account. The tenth part of it is called a dime. The one-hundredth part, a cent. Hence, one hundred cents or ten dimes equal one dollar. And, hence, the term "fifty-cent dollar" is just as absurd as to talk about an 18-inch yard or a six-inch foot.

The material upon which government stamps its fiat may be dear or cheap. It may be useful for other purposes after the government stamp is destroyed, and have a market price like any other commodity, as in the case of gold or silver; or it may be of such a nature as to be practically worthless for any other purpose after the government stamp is destroyed—as in the case of paper.

The 516 grains of gold, nine-tenths fine or pure, in a twenty-dollar gold piece can be used for nothing else than "money" without destroying the coin, and, consequently, making twenty dollars less in the money supply. For example, a dentist might use the gold to fill teeth. The 412½ grains of silver, nine-tenths fine, in a silver dollar can be used for nothing else than "money" without destroying the coin and rendering it useless as money. Applying the famous melting-pot test to the two coins this would result: Both would be destroyed as "money;" the 516 grains of gold would sell in the markets at substantially \$20—because under free coinage of gold that weight of gold metal can be converted into a twenty-dollar gold piece; the 412½ grains of silver would sell in the markets today at about 41 or 42 cents, instead of substantially \$1—because there is no free coinage of silver in the United States and no way of converting the uncoined silver into a dollar coin.

Care should be taken to discriminate between the expressions, the "value" of gold bullion and the "price" of gold bullion; the "value" of silver bullion and the "price" of silver bullion. "Price" is "value stated in terms of money." The "value" of gold bullion has declined considerably since 1896 in the United States; 516 grains of gold will exchange for no more commodities on the average than, say, 455

grains would command in 1896 (these figures are not intended as accurate, but only for illustration); yet the market "price" of gold bullion is just the same as it was in 1896 and it never can fall below the coinage rate (except, of course, expenses of getting it to the mint) as long as there is free coinage of gold. Along with gold, the "value" of silver has doubtless fallen some since 1896; but its market "price" has fallen greatly.

Now, the "value" of a dollar is quite a different thing from the "value" of the material upon which it is stamped or coined. The "value" of a dollar is known by what it will exchange for AS A DOLLAR, and not as so much weight of metal. The more dollars there are and the faster they circulate, the LESS of commodities each one will exchange for—which is only another way of speaking of high "prices" of commodities. The fewer dollars there are and the more slowly they circulate, the MORE of commodities each one will exchange for—which is only another way of speaking of low "prices" of commodities. In the first instance the dollars are "cheap," no matter what the "price" of the material upon which they were stamped; and in the second instance the dollars are "dear," regardless of the "price" of the material which carries the government fiat.

Nobody "gets the other fifty cents," for there isn't any other fifty cents to get. Silver dollars coined from bullion purchased by the government at less than \$1.29 an ounce would seem to indicate a profit to the government, but this is more apparent than real. The fact that the government uses such an expensive material when paper, at one per cent of the cost, would do just as well, would indicate a loss rather than gain.—Associate Editor.)

What Has Fusion Accomplished?

Editor Independent: Inclosed find 10 cents for trial three months' subscription to your paper, the Nebraska Independent.

Permit me to say, that I think, for news The Independent, general news I mean, save politics, your paper is very clever; but if in politics you are still continuing its clamor, "fusion" and for "fusion" your soul is set, just, please, Mr. Editor, take a backward view of your, the fusionists' reward for their labors for the past six years—what do you find? What have you accomplished? Knowing and seeing the result of your efforts as you can't help seeing, why is it that you continue floating fusion?

My dear sir, I have but ten cents, not for fusion, not a penny, but to kill the d-d enemy of decent politics I have some energy and will deny myself much to furnish a little of the circulating medium to help stamp the cursed infamy from the face of the earth.

Men are so very, very little, when they don't know or rather do know that they like the principles of the party—and the name of the other—like Shakespeare, Mark Anthony in Julius Caesar, when he mentions —; what's the use? of the evils of fusion you know too well.

F. A. FOREMAN.

Upton, Pa.

(When two or more men agree to do a certain thing, they "fuse." When two political organizations agree to join hands in accomplishing certain things, they "fuse." Co-operate is the correct term, however, unless the two organizations become one. What has "fusion" accomplished? Here in Nebraska it gave the people four years of the best state government they ever had. It took a bankrupt state, whose warrants were being hawked about by brokers at a discount of 3 to 8 per cent, whose treasury was robbed of more than half a million dollars, with a bonded debt of \$468,267.35 and a floating debt of \$1,936,273.47, and at the end of four years could show this: Not a dollar of bonded debt; a reduction of \$209,000 in the floating debt, state warrants at 1 per cent premium and hard to get at that figure. Not only that, fusion so managed the patrimony of the school children, the land endowments and the securities, as to collect and disburse for the cause of education more money in four years than was ever done in a like period before or since. But because Nebraska has many men like Mr. Foreman, who will spurn everything that does not bear their party name, the party that plundered the state is again in power and running things with a high hand. Fusion has had no evil effect in Nebraska except to develop a lot of partisan lunatics in both the democratic and the populist party.—Ed. Ind.)

Is Agin' Fusion

Editor Independent: Some weeks ago you said that the assertion is made continuously by the republican

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E. B. SLOSSON, Gen. Agt.,
1044 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

press, and also by some men who were once populists, that the populist party was wrecked through fusion. The Independent denies that the party is wrecked, or that any man can prove that fusion proved detrimental. Now, Mr. Editor, I wish to say that if fusion has not wrecked the party that it has hurt it like the devil. Your state may be benefited from a financial standpoint, but how is it with Texas, which polled something like 240,000, I believe it was for Kirby for governor? Butler's grip on one part and Parker's with the other part, looks very much like the house is divided against itself; and if so, it must fall, if there is not a coming together soon. My prediction was when Bryan was nominated, first, that it would require five years for the populists to become as strong as they were at that time, if they ever did. Butler-Allen-Jones-Weaver-Bryan, et al., came so near wrecking the populist party. Are any of us sure where we are at? Oh, my God, look how Tom Watson was treated. General Weaver after being egged over in Georgia by the democrats then, well—then, then! Ah, that Butler that withheld his notification papers! It won't do to say that the populist party is not hurt, and bad at that. Who is going to get it together, and what will be the strength of the party if it is collected together again?

I was born in the year 1842, in Arkansas at that, and I hold that a party that is good enough to fuse with is good enough to vote for. Ah, look how the court in Texas treated the populists.

All can fuse that want to, but for me, I rather stay at home. No fusion, no.

G. LIGON.
Graham, Ind. Ter.

Prizes For Short Stories

Conkey's Home Journal announces in its April issue just out that it will begin a new department of both serious and humorous short stories in its next issue, and prizes are offered for the best stories submitted. A peculiar feature of the contest is an offer of \$10 to the person sending the best short story clipped from another publication. This magazine has been setting a lively pace for its competitors during the past year, and now makes another good move by adding eight more pages. The April number opens with five short stories, which are followed by several illustrated special articles. The home departments, as usual, contain several features of exceptional interest to women. A waltz for the piano is by A. A. Ford.