A PLAN OF ACTION

Earnest Democrat Suggests a Plan For Determining the Anti-Reorganizer Strength

A Kansas City platform democrat, who has for a number of years been a staunch supporter of The Independent, writes us a long letter regarding the democratic situation. Being a modest man—one who has done democratic hewing of wood and drawing of water—he seeks to avoid notoriety and asks that his name be withheld at present.

"Half measures," he says, "are promising any good. It is fight, fight, between the two elements of democracy and will result in one of three things. Either the reorganizers will cool down and remain a spying, traitorous element in the ranks, as here-[illegible] or they will put us out; or [illegible] will put them out. There is no room for any peace, and it is right there should not be."

He suggests that the party press could be certain approximately the number of votes which would be lost to democracy in the event the reorganizers win in the convention. This is his plan.

Let every exchange of The Independent (in line with reform) ascertain the number of democrats in its locality who, in the event of Cleveland's nomination (or the nomination of any other reorganizer democrat) would vote the populist ticket in lieu; also those democrats who, if forced to a choice between a Cleveland democrat and Roosevelt, would vote for Roosevelt.

He believes such a canvass, if extended over the whole country, would show one to three million democrats who would refuse to vote for a Cleveland democrat, practically all of whom would vote the populist ticket, and many of whom would, if driven to it, vote for Roosevelt. His idea was for every country paper exchanging with The Independent to print an estimate of the number of such democrats (but not to give the names); and for each exchange of those papers to do the same, thus forming a sort of chain-letter system of securing the information.

If our exchanges desire to make such a showing, The Independent will reprint the result as shown in each paper. Send marked copy.

Stored Labor

Editor Independent: In today's Independent you request some reader to send you a sample of stored labor and define it. Herewith find a sample of my stored labor. It is as you see stored in a money order. I wish to exchange it for the labor good, bad or indifferent, you may continue to store in The Independent during the coming year. You can see my sample, feel it and handle. If you will exchange for food you can taste it. If you will exchange it for shirts you can wear it and keep it with you for a year more or less, until you find out just what it is. Why send for sample? There is not a material thing about you that is not stored labor. Yes, stored labor. Like all other material things you have the qualities of length, weight, bulk and number economically stored in you by labor. When labor ceases storage you and these qualities disappear. You have traits made from these qualities by which they are exactly measured. These qualities are continuously stored by time or labor. Time is but another name for the labor of the earth, our day, its labor in turning upon its axis; our year, its continuous labor by which it revolves around the sun. You can no more [illegible] the quality of labor stored in you by the ordinary price of a few days' work than you can measure the earth by a price unit. I would attempt to bring to your readers by proposing that there cannot find in your paper will consider immediate as the [illegible] for the sake of [illegible] in daylight—unreal, [illegible] of things [illegible] stored. You [illegible] stored [illegible] find this [illegible] to dished [illegible] hope [illegible] of your readers.

W. ANTHONY.

Questions Hardy

[illegible] of the Henry [illegible] are doing good [illegible]

What does he mean [illegible] We have no [illegible] Does he [illegible] of the Democrats?

If so, he having "no doubt" is apparently superficial and certainly dangerous. The single tax cause suffers by reason of such advocates; let him come south and study the question line, or let him keep silent and permit those familiar with the difficulties to handle it.

WILLIAM RILEY BOYD.

Atlanta, Ga.

(Mr. Hardy has for years written a column for The Independent. The sentiments are strictly his, and are not necessarily to be regarded as expressing the views of The Independent. The editorial columns alone (and News of The Week) give the editor's opinion. Mr. Hardy's information on this subject may not be as extensive as Mr. Boyd's, yet we cannot say that Mr. Hardy has no right to have an opinion on any subject unless he knows all there is to know about it.—Associate Editor.)

Bryan and Cleveland

An Independent subscriber in Oklahoma, who is also a subscriber of the Springfield Republican, sends the following clipping from that paper and his reply:

Cleveland had the best opportunity to redeem the democratic party ever offered to any man since the time of Andrew Jackson, but, instead of being true to his party, he disgraced himself.—William J. Bryan.

Thus does Mr. Bryan indulge in talk that is unlovely, most unjudicial and unwise, because calculated to turn the great average good sense of the country against him. The root of Mr. Cleveland's offending lay in forcing the repeal of the Sherman silver purchasing act. In that service he stood squarely upon the democratic national platform of 1892, which declared: "We denounce the republican legislation known as the Sherman act of 1890 as a cowardly makeshift, fraught with possibilities of danger in the future, which should make all of its supporters, as well as its author, anxious for its speedy repeal." Mr. Cleveland's personal views were perfectly well known, and he stood by them as he had the habit of doing. It was indeed this knowledge of his character that elected him.

"With a courage that few men in his situation would have displayed, and a patriotism that will be honored in all coming time,' says the Washington Post of Mr. Cleveland, 'he resisted a pressure that would have swept from his base any president who was not ready to sacrifice himself in obedience to his convictions. When not only a great majority of his own political brethren, but many of the most prominent republicans, wavered in their fidelity to sound money, he stood firm, immoval as 'the rock of Chickamauga.'" We are all ready to accept the fact that Mr. Bryan does not like the democratic ex-president, and totally disagrees with him on the money question. It is also evident that current republican appreciation of Mr. Cleveland maddens the Bryan wing of the party, and so makes "the sage of Princeton" of little avail as a party harmonizer. But the venom of Mr. Bryan's denunciation is as unwise as any part of the business.

Editor Springfield Republican: For such a paper as yours to engage in special pleading I think is inconsistent. That plank condemned republican enmity to bimetallism and expressed friendship to silver, not to gold, as you imply—to gold alone. Condemned a republican substitute for democratic device (Bland) because it plainly expressed dislike of bimetallism or silver.

How you can find any excuse for Clevelandism in the democratic platform, I am unable to see. The democratic candidate was so universally supported by the democratic party in 1892 because he was supposed to represent policies so opposite to those of his predecessor, Harrison, who so markedly discouraged against silver and in favor of gold the first officer action of the republican party in favor of gold and against bimetallism. Democratic disappointment in the [illegible] candidate was [illegible] plain in the immediate succeeding [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]