

The Independent.

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POYNTER'S VIEW

Former Populist Governor of Nebraska
Writes on the Question of What the
Peoples Party Shall do

Editor Independent: The question of independent action is the most important one now confronting the populist party. It has been very clearly demonstrated that the democratic party (with which populists have been acting for some time) on account of its hopelessly divided condition, if for no other reason, does not possess the power to meet the great questions of the hour. A large wing of that party is as fully under the control of the trusts as ever the republican party has been, or is now. An additional number of democrats, which we have good reason to believe is large, are weary of what they call defeat, and will welcome any change which brings with it the hope of democratic office-holding.

The effort at reform which Mr. Bryan and his followers so gallantly made, has added one more proof to the truth that no party was ever reformed from within, or in other words reformed itself. History is full of such futile efforts. Reforms have been made, but they have been made not within, but without the party. Populists entertained strong hope that by alliance with reformers in the democratic party the coalition would be stronger than independent action and thereby the purposes for which the populist party was organized would the sooner be accomplished. But time has shown its impracticability.

indications now point to the success of what is known as the reorganization of the democratic party. This means in plain language the deposing of Mr. Bryan and his reform ideas and the adoption of the leadership of Mr. Cleveland, "sound money" and "tariff reform." With such democracy the populist party can have neither fellowship nor sympathy. A wide opportunity was afforded us for the dissemination of populist doctrine by our coalition with the democrats, but with reorganization an accomplished fact that opportunity no longer exists.

The time is now ripe to regather our forces and line them up upon the principles of the Omaha platform for the fray of 1904. Whatever disintegration has happened to our ranks has been caused by our union with the democratic party. Independent action will in large measure recover these scattered forces. Our trinity of principles enunciated in the Omaha platform, which was received with such derision by the great eastern press today commands the respectful consideration of thoughtful men everywhere. The adoption of these principles in government is the only solution of the great questions before the people now. Strikes, lockouts, and the numerous ills which are today ruining labor, vexing business interests and robbing consumers, are but symptoms of the diseased condition of our body politic. Arbitration is now the great soporific, which, while quieting to the patient for the time, does nothing to eradicate the disease. Conditions remaining, the paroxysms are sure to return.

Populists have made the correct diagnosis, and present the remedies for radical cure. It is folly to talk of legislating against trusts while the great mother of them all, the money monopoly, flourishes under congressional protection; and the transportation monopoly builds up or wrecks fortunes for individual or communities at its own will. The advice of Greeley, "go west, young man," no longer affords a solution to the land question, now already assuming vast importance especially in the eastern states, because the arable homestead lands are exhausted.

Government must again resume its functions, too long farmed out to corporations, and issue all money without the intervention of banks of issue. Government must own and operate the transportation of the country in the interests of all the people. With these two powers taken from the hands of monopoly, the trust question will very soon adjust itself. More people today than ever before believe in the doctrines of the populist party. If the larger portion of the principles

advocated in the Omaha platform was left to an unprejudiced vote of the people they would receive a majority of ballots in their favor.

Party prejudice is hard to overcome. Men will meet each other upon a middle ground. In independent action the populist party will present that middle ground. Democrats who believe in principle above party, and are patriots rather than pie-biters, will gladly aid the success of populist principles. Republicans who are weary of trust domination and are tired of broken pledges will help. Let us make the platform along the lines of the Omaha document, short, crisp, and to the point, and unite all patriots to stand with us upon it.

W. A. POYNTER.

Lincoln, Neb.

UTAH POPULISTS

Former Committeeman Lawrence Says the
Peoples Party Has Ceased to
Exist in Utah

Editor Independent: Your letter of 16th inst., with Henry George Edition, is at hand, for which please accept thanks.

In reply to your questions, permit me to say that the populist party has ceased to exist in this state. Fusion with the democrats killed the party. Those who were formerly populists have generally joined the socialists, to which party I am now giving my support. We cast about 3,000 votes at the last election, and were it not for the opposition of the dominant church in this state, we would poll a larger vote.

The populist party has been the means of preparing the way for a great change in social and economic thought, but I sincerely believe that socialism has to complete the work of freeing the people from political and industrial slavery.

With best wishes to The Independent in its work of reform, I am, very truly yours,
H. W. LAWRENCE.
Box 1374, Salt Lake City.

(Mr. Lawrence is to be complimented for joining the party whose principles he sincerely believes in. Some far-seeing socialists with whom The Independent has talked recently have about reached the conclusion that the co-operative commonwealth will, after all, not be ushered in through the capture of the government at one fell swoop, but that the path may lie through "state capitalism," that is, the public ownership of railroads, etc.—although that is a matter with which scientific socialists are not concerned further than mere onlookers in the evolution of society. Carnegie's recent declaration in favor of public ownership of the railroads is significant as indicating that the time is not far distant when it will be an assured fact. This is one of the fundamental demands of populism, and although the plutocrats will doubtless plan to take every advantage of the situation, the accomplishment of securing public ownership will be a decided victory for populist principles.—Associate Editor.)

Dog-day Madness

Editor Independent: The folly and dog-day madness of those mugwump reorganizers, republicans and warmed over democratic degenerates, who voted with the republicans in 1896 and 1900, and are now seeking to force the nomination of Mr. Cleveland on the party he has betrayed, is without a parallel in history. As well might Judas have contended for the place of Peter, or Benedict Arnold have sought to succeed Washington. Grover Cleveland in his best estate was a political calamity to his country and his party—an aggregation of egotism, entrails and obstinacy, beloved by his enemies for his betrayal of his friends.

That any body of respectable American citizens should violate a political precedent, established by Washington, to honor a man who has been rebuked and sat upon as Mr. Cleveland has, is wholly inconceivable. The democratic party has not yet dug out from under the calamity of his last administration. Mr. Cleveland's second administration was remarkable and distinguished only for its blundering and stupidity; his subserv-

ency to the gold gambling Wall street clique, J. P. Morgan and the Ikleheimers, threw the country into a panic. His banker friends climbed the golden stairs by every route conceivable; in the east men fought for bread—in the west men burned their corn. The bonded debt was increased more during his administration than it was by Mr. McKinley during the Spanish war. With 180,000,000 ounces of uncoined silver in the treasury Mr. Cleveland redeemed silver certificates with gold coin. And finally bought off his tormentors with a lump sum of nearly \$20,000,000 United States bonds.

That the Seligmans, Ikleheimers and Morgans should wish Old Jumbo back in the presidential office is not to be wondered at. Mr. McKinley, a free silver republican, coined every ounce of the seigniorage this blind old donkey shied at, and was lauded to the skies for it. That this blundering old traitor should crawl out of his grave and play the part of Caesar and Richard III., refusing the crown, is too funny for anything outside of a comic almanac.

The presidency is farther from Grover Cleveland's reach than the farthest fixed star and equally as inaccessible. As against Mr. Roosevelt it is doubtful if he would receive a single electoral vote. His strength can be measured by the Palmer and Buchner vote of '96. To my personal knowledge Jumbo was sold like an ox to the Seligmans before his last nomination. Seligman's son-in-law was making the open bid of \$240,000 to the delegates at the Chicago convention for Cleveland's campaign fund. Had Boies, Hill or any other man been nominated at Chicago in '92, Cleveland would have gone home to the mugwumps just as he did in '96.

If the democratic party has become so barren of presidential timber that it must nominate a republican, why not make Teddy's election unanimous? He is today the better democrat of the two, both in theory and in practice. Another "four years more of Grover" would mean the death and eternal damnation of the democratic party. Knowing this to be true, is the reason why the mugwumps are so anxious to secure his nomination.

ALEX. H. VANCE.

Milford, Neb.

Bartley's Coalition.

Editor Independent: I fully agree with James Bartley's article under the heading of "Jeffersonian Clubs," March 26, and gladly send my name as he requests. Would suggest that we let it be known we are a part of the so-called Bryan remnant. How would it do to start a list under a proper heading?

If those eastern plutocrats and money kings cannot run this government, they might carry into effect the threat that was made in some of their papers in '96 that they could annex the eastern states to England.

Start a list, and let us hear from the Bryan remnant. And at the same time send your subscription to The Independent and Commoner, two of the best and cleanest, containing more information in them to the square inch than any other papers on earth, and more editorials and clean cut wisdom. Where can you beat them?

M. D. MORSE.

Hickman Mills, Mo.

Bishop McVicker has been telling the people of Aldrich's principality some very plain truths. Among other things he said: "The laws which are to be made and the offices for their administration are spoils and loot to be acquired at a price in the interest of any party or any scheme, no matter how selfish or evil may be its aim, and all chance for the expression of the popular conscience or popular right through the ballot, the one practical method apart from revolution, is either prevented or choked." Within twenty-four hours after the address was given, the henchmen of Aldrich raised the cry that the bishop was advocating revolution, and that he was a dangerous man and ought to be suppressed. Aldrich rules more despotically in Rhode Island than Quay does in Pennsylvania. There was never anything on earth so infernally rotten as the republican party.

THE PEOPLES PARTY

National Committeeman E. Gerry Brown,
of Massachusetts, Gives Reasons
For the Faith That's in Him

The Independent's letters to the populist national committeemen are bearing abundant fruit. Last week Committeeman Elmer E. Thomas of Omaha told of the revival of populist strength in Nebraska's metropolis; and this week Independent readers have the pleasure of hearing from Committeeman E. Gerry Brown of Massachusetts, who has been a member of the national committee continuously since 1891, and who has been an active participant in all the great populist gatherings.

Mr. Brown's letter ought to be an inspiration to populists everywhere who feel in the least down-hearted. He has entered into the spirit of The Independent's idea in writing to the national committeemen—to hold, through the columns of the paper, a genuine populist revival and experience meeting; to compare notes and be ready to take definite action as a national party when the proper time comes. Mr. Brown says:

Editor Independent: I have received your Henry George Independent and also your circular letter of inquiry addressed to members of our national committee for information and opinions. Before replying specifically to your questions permit me to say that your proposition for a symposium of views of members of the national committee is the right thing at the right time. Some weeks ago I made a suggestion to the Missouri World that it should endeavor to interest our members in an exchange of opinions as to what could be done and at the same time secure information from each state which might be a basis for future action. I also suggested that each one might be willing to contribute at least a subscription because those members who could not attend a national conference would have the privilege of hearing from old-time friends who have our cause at heart. Too often our national committee meetings have been held without any opportunity for an exchange of views of members from different states; we come together and separate without being posted as we should be if we are to do our full public duty as national committeemen. Next to a meeting of the national committee I consider the work you have undertaken to be the most important contribution that could now be made towards once again giving practical and well defined direction to the spirit of populism which is the spirit of 1776. May all the good fellowship of our movement join you in your work. I anticipate the great pleasure I shall have in common with others in reading your paper, for I hope and believe that each member will respond to your call as a duty incumbent upon each true populist at this time.

The Independent is right in saying that the people's party is not dead. As well might we say that our first ideal, Polk, or our gifted Ignatius Donnelly or a host of others that we might name with a tinge of sorrow because we shall no more grasp the welcoming hand of flesh, are dead; but we know that all the attributes that made them lovable to us, all the individuality that gave matchless energy to the cause of human rights, still lives though having joined the majority that has passed the grave of corruption. The cause for which we fight can never die, and never did it need every one who places principles above party and the man above the dollar as it needs them now.

From 1891 down to 1896 our party had a monopoly so far as the declaration of public ownership of public utilities was concerned. Private credit shall not circulate as national currency was the Jeffersonian principle than won us hosts of converts; transportation at cost was a close second and with some a leader; then came our declaration as to land. We all know the controversy which has always arisen as to our land plank. We had it at Cincinnati in 1891 and in St. Louis in 1892, where the labor organizations from the farms and the cities made the platform which we adopted word for word and letter for letter at Omaha. Shall we ever again have