

TWO DEMOCRATIC PARTIES

Mr. Johnson Discusses the Advisability of Holding the "Bryan Remnant" Together at all Hazards

Editor Independent: The statement of Mr. Edward S. Grece in his letter in The Independent of June 4, that "two democratic parties will not do," suggests the question, Why will not two democratic parties do? And in considering this it seems to me that should the reorganizers capture the present democratic organization, the very proper thing for the friends of the Kansas City platform to do would be to form, if possible, another democratic party immediately.

I do not mean to be understood as opposing the organization of the populist party. Let that work go on; that is proper, too. But our principles are in the hands of a much larger party now than the populist party can hope to be. They are in the hands of 6,500,000 democratic voters, more than nine-tenths of whom, I believe, are in hearty sympathy with them. There is a fight on in the party on these principles. They are opposed by the less than one-tenth, either to wipe them out from their party platform entirely or to nullify them by a miserable compromise.

In the event of their success, if the other wing of the party can form at once another democratic party under the leadership of W. J. Bryan, Tom L. Johnson (not necessarily as candidates) and other strong men of their kind, of whom there are many, the nine-tenths can be held intact for real democracy and that would be good enough, for populists who can then rush in on election day to swell their number.

Populists can break party ties more easily than can democrats and there is so much smaller number of them to overcome this difficulty. The reorganizers would find themselves with another Palmer and Buckner number.

A split in the republican party is among the probabilities, some think. I do not look for it. Mr. Roosevelt is a candidate for nomination by his party; that is certain. If what commendable things he is doing are done from principle or if he is doing them merely to promote his own selfish ambition without license from the money power, he will incur its displeasure and lose its support, and a split will result. But if he is doing them only under the pressure of popular demand with a wink to the money power and for the purpose of throwing out bait to keep republicans around his hooks till election, there will be no split. This latter view I am more inclined to accept.

We have had straddle platforms; a straddle administration is not impossible, and I think that is what we are getting now.

In either case, whether the republican party is divided or not, the new democratic party with the burden of the reorganizers thrown off and with the help of the populists, which it then would be entitled to, would most surely win. Should the republican party split and the reorganizers of the democratic party win in shaping platform and in naming their ticket, the money power will undoubtedly go to their support.

Therefore, I would say, let the friends of the Kansas City platform fight in primaries and in conventions for those principles, unsullied by compromise either by undemocratic declarations or unfriendly ticket, and if defeated let them form a new democratic party. And let the populists organize not with partisan spirit and purpose for themselves, but to aid it.

F. O. JOHNSON.

Marion, Ia.

Hopkins Hash Unpalatable

Editor Independent: That your neighbor editor, Mr. Bryan, who always loads for bear, more so than any other editor in the universe, will one day be elected president, I undoubtedly believe. The fact that Mr. Bryan voted for Weaver and was himself named for the presidency by the people's party in two campaigns marks him in my estimation no less a democrat of the Jeffersonian stamp, build and persuasion. Editors of papers which reveal fact and endeavor to squelch falsehood are democrats, but I don't care if they are called savages, baboons, foolish anarchists or paupercrats.

I am myself an independent democrat, that is to say, I am a democrat, independent of corporation flattery and snares to the best of my ability. I voted the people's ticket in the state of Illinois last fall for the simple reason that the John P. Hopkins hash of last year produced a derangement within my stomach. I have voted and shall vote the democratic ticket

from bottom to top or from top to bottom whenever the Chicago and Kansas City platforms are adopted, reaffirmed and improved.

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Riley Co. Kansas

Editor Independent: Your favor of the 6th inst. received; also copy of The Independent of June 4 in which I read letters from different states in regard to the condition of the people's party and the stand it should take in the coming contest; in which I most heartily agree that we keep our party organization, and let our future depend upon the action of the democratic party. If that party favors the Bryan platform, we can indorse it without sacrificing our principles; but if the democratic reorganizers capture the party, then I believe the populists will develop a strength that will surprise its most ardent friends. In this county (Riley) we are a unit in this matter and will stand for the principles of the Omaha and Kansas City platforms, for populists place principle above party name or men.

E. J. MILLARD,

Chairman.

J. N. LIMBOCKER,

Secretary.

Manhattan, Kas.

The New York Populists

The Independent has understood that the political organization known as the liberal democratic party (of which Hon. J. S. Corbin of Gouverneur was the candidate for lieutenant governor last fall) to some extent occupies the field formerly held by the people's party in New York. The following, quoted from a personal letter to the editor, gives the New York situation from the standpoint of one who has had ample opportunity to note the trend of events there:

Editor Independent: The people's party here was "taken in" and its organization destroyed by the fusion in 1896. We did what seemed to be our duty at the time and the prospect of reorganizing the party here is very discouraging. Some of our voters are still voting with the democrats, but more of them have gone to the socialists. Unless a systematic national movement is carried out to organize a party holding the doctrines declared and upheld by the people's party for the last ten years within the next two years I think it very doubtful whether it can be successfully done after that, as the socialists will most likely absorb the voting population that feel any degree of disgust with the republican party and reorganized democracy.

The great combinations of wealth seem to hold complete sway over the federal, state and municipal governments and furnish employment to the great bulk of laborers and are making the majority of the people think they have great prosperity, or soon will have, so that I consider it doubtful whether any strong national party in defense of the people's rights can be built up until general hard times and distress are apparent to the middle classes. I appreciate the good work being done by The Independent and know something of the hardships and sacrifices that are undergone by those who persistently and sincerely work for the public weal.

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But try to make the best of life
And happiness inspire;
A cheerful smile and sweet content
Add sunshine unto life,
And have the greatest power to
Dispel its care and strife.

'Tis smiles that drive away life's gloom,
And not sad worryment;
So let our lives in happiness,
Not discontent, be spent.
Look up to God to find his light
To brighten every day,
And when the world seems to abuse,
Just look the other way.

And find the sunshine on beyond
The clouds that intervene,
Until the darkness passes by
And you the light have seen.
Don't worry, for to every cloud
A silver lining shines,
And with the scrowls of the soul,
God's solace e'er combines.

MARTHA SHEPARD LIPPINCOTT,
Moorestown, N. J.

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No. 86.—Examine into this Platte County Farm.—It has 160 acres of good farm land, 3 miles south of Lindsay, four-roomed house, well and wind mill, granary, hog house, barn for 6 horses, buggy shed, cemented cistern; all fenced. This is a bargain. Price, \$45 per acre.

No. 504.—Farm in the Sugar Beet Section, Hall County.—Farm containing 240 acres; of this 160 acres are in cultivation, 60 acres in pasture, 15 acres in alfalfa; house 16x22, with addition; barn, well and pump. It is located 3 miles from Grand Island, and will be offered for the low price of \$22.50 per acre to July 1.

No. 522.—Choice Bargain in Franklin County.—Farm of 160 acres, 3 miles north of Naponee, Neb., 90 acres under cultivation, 70 acres fenced, well of good water, new house and stables, 54 acres in wheat, balance in corn, and is convenient to church and school. Price, \$10 per acre.

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Tax Reform

One of the most important organizations in the Empire State is known as the New York Tax Reform association. Lawson Purdy, the well-known

single taxer and author, is secretary; and Bolton Hall, single taxer, author and one of the keenest writers in America, is one of the vice presidents. For the benefit of independent readers interested in the subject of taxation (and who is not?), we give the platform of this association:

1. The most direct taxation is the best, because it gives to the real payers of taxes a conscious and direct pecuniary interest in honest and economical government.

2. Mortgages and capital engaged in production or trade should be exempt from taxation; because taxes on capital tend to drive it away, to put a premium on dishonesty and to discourage industry.

3. Real estate should bear the main burden of taxation; because such taxes can be most easily and certainly collected, and because they bear least heavily on the farmer and the worker.

4. Besides real estate taxes, corporations should pay in taxes only the fair value of the franchises they obtain from the people.

5. No legislature will venture to enact a good system of local taxation until the people, especially the farmers, perceive the correct principles of taxation and see the folly of taxing personal property.

Therefore, We desire to unite our efforts to keep up intelligent discussion and agitation of the subject of taxation, with a view to improvement in the system and enlightenment as to the correct principles.

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