

views. Headquarters and hall will be announced later. Come.

J. A. EDGERTON.

Denver, Colo.
Care Rocky Mountain News.

ALLIED PEOPLE'S PARTY.

The national executive and central committees of the allied (mid-road) people's party are hereby called to meet at the St. James hotel in Denver Colo., on Monday, July 27, at 10 o'clock a. m. The purpose of this meeting is to confer with other reformers as to the future, and above all the best plans to bring about the complete reunion of those who in the past have fought within the ranks of the people's party. The meeting is to be one of conciliation and harmony, and while I know it will be a great personal sacrifice for the members of my committee to attend this meeting on account of the distance, I think the opportunity to bring about peace and unity is worth the hardship imposed.

On behalf of the committee, I cordially invite all who are opposed to the two old parties to meet with us in informal conference. While this meeting will have no power to make any material changes in party organization, there is no doubt that some definite plan will be heartily agreed upon on which all elements can unite, and restore our grand movement to its former vigor. The principles for which the people's party has stood from the beginning are immortal, and are now upheld by the majority of the people, and need only thorough and systematic effort to become successful.

Especially do I invite representative men who are tired of the old parties, but who have not affiliated with us in the past, as well as those who are so gallantly fighting for socialism and other minor parties to be present and see what can be done. No one will be bound by the action of this conference further than he may personally agree at the time.

JO A. PARKER,
Chairman.

Louisville, Ky., July 1, 1903.
(All reform papers please copy.)

POPULIST NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Lincoln, Neb., July 6, 1903.—To the National Committee of the People's Party of the United States: Inasmuch as political events seem to be taking form and are shaping themselves for the next presidential campaign, we believe that the course of the people's party should be defined. Therefore acting upon the earnest demands of members of the national committee and state committees, we have concluded to convene the national committee for considering all matters of interest coming before it. The reason for fixing the time and place herein named, is that on the 27th of July, the great conference is to be held at Denver, Colo., consisting of representatives of the reform forces of the country and looking to a union of the same.

In the past some differences in political policies have arisen and for a time tended toward a division of the people's party, but conditions have changed and it now seems that there is no reason for the existence of two organizations. We believe this to be an opportune time to remove every impediment that prevents men who hold the same principles from acting in unison. We stand for blending their efforts in one concerted action and believe this should be the war cry from ocean to ocean: UNION OF THE REFORM FORCES OF THE NATION, marching under one banner with one official head. With an united army we will wage war upon evil and wrong.

The people's party presents its declaration of principles first made at Omaha and afterwards on other occasions as a rallying point for all who desire to bring about a government for the people, by the people, and who desire the overthrow of the gigantic trusts that are threatening the existence of the republic.

With the people's party united as it will be and with the democratic and republican parties divided as they are sure to be, there will be found waiting many hundred thousands, yes, millions, of the best citizens of this country who are willing to join forces in an attempt to reform abuses that are fast becoming unbearable.

As abuses of every class and character is becoming concentrated by the trusts in the hands of a few, the people begin to feel the effect and realize that trusts are preying upon the earnings of the masses and taking from the people the wealth they create.

As vice chairman of the national committee of the people's party I had hoped that Hon. Marion Butler would issue a call for the national committee to meet at the same time as this con-

ference and have waited to this late date, but having just received his letter stating that he preferred to take a referendum vote of the committee to ascertain whether a committee meeting should be called, and knowing that that would make it impossible to reach the committee in time to attend the conference, and being impressed with the great importance of this meeting as well as with the very urgent demands from national and state committeemen, I have concluded to issue a call for a meeting of the national committee.

At the last meeting of the national committee a resolution was passed authorizing me as vice chairman of the national committee to convene the committee when in the judgment of a reasonable number of the committee it would be for the best interest of the party.

It is my earnest desire that it shall be understood by the committee and all members of the party that in convening the committee I am acting upon the advice of a large number of the members of the committee as well as being governed by the resolution outlining my duties, and sincerely trust that this action will meet with the approval of all and result in great good.

Therefore as vice chairman of the national committee of the people's party I hereby request that all members of the national committee of the people's party and as many members of the party as possible, meet at Denver, Colo., July 29, 1903, for the purpose of considering all matters of interest to the party that may come before it. The place of meeting will be determined at that time.

J. H. EDMISTEN, Vice Chairman.

J. A. EDGERTON, Secretary.

The executive committee of the people's party is requested to meet at the same time and place.

J. H. EDMISTEN, Vice Chairman.

J. A. EDGERTON, Secretary.

(All reform papers please copy.)

RESUME OF OPINIONS.

By the time the smoke of last November's elections had cleared away The Independent had received a large number of letters from men prominent in the reform movement all over the United States, in which the mistakes of the past were touched upon and inquiry made as to what might be done in the future. Following is an excerpt from a letter written to the editor by one of the most distinguished and unselfish reformers in the state of Indiana:

"Some of us at least are, therefore, looking to your party to take such action as the situation demands as early as possible. It is useless for us to think about another national campaign under the leadership of the democratic party. The traitors cannot be discovered and driven out of it. Enough will remain to betray it and bring defeat. Thousands of voters are so firmly fixed in this belief that they will not make a move to prevent the reorganization element from taking possession of the organization. Many of them hope that this will occur, believing that when it does occur the separation will take place, and that all true believers in the Kansas City declarations will gladly come out of it." ("That Political Chaos," p. 1, Independent, Nov. 27, 1902.)

In the same issue, under the heading "Stand Firm," (p. 2.), Bernard Noon, Butte, Mont., said:

"Populists! Keep up your party organization! It has served a useful purpose in the past, and may serve a greater in the future. We are passing today through a condition which is rapidly plunging us into a revolution. Populism may yet be the only bulwark to sustain our government and stand between it and its destroyers. You have begun a good work. Do not abandon it now when the dark hours of adversity are upon it. Stand by your guns. Be true to your colors. The darkest hour is just before dawn. Your party can stand defeat, so long as it contends for the right, and places principle above temporary success. The same issues that brought your party into existence and for which you have fought so well for the last dozen years are still before the American people, and will stay before the American people until they are settled for all time. You have a duty to perform—a sacred trust to fulfill. Will you abandon it now, when it needs your support most?"

In that same issue, too, under the head of "Passing of Populism" (p. 4), Thomas O. Clark, Baltimore, Md., said:

"In 1896 the populists took possession of the democratic party. In 1904

the democrats will take possession of the people's party, and their combined forces will storm the citadel of greed."

Just how this taking "possession" in 1904 was to be accomplished, Mr. Clark did not make clear, but as treasurer of the people's party of Maryland, his name is signed to an "address to the people of Maryland" (see "Maryland Populists," p. 2, Independent, June 25, 1903) in which this language occurs:

"We believe the time has come for action, and the large number who have lost faith in the two old parties by reason of their utter lack of principles, encourages the belief that many, if the chance be given them, will rally to the support of a party which honestly seeks to free the people from the present unbearable political oppression."

On that day the editor gave a heart to heart talk with the chairman of the people's party national committee (see "Marion Butler, Listen," p. 8, Independent, Nov. 27, 1902) in which the situation was clearly presented and the following suggestion made:

"The Independent believes that the chairman of the people's party, under these conditions, should call a national and representative council some time during next winter and let the party make a formal and official statement concerning the policy that it proposes to pursue in the future. Let him invite to that council representative Bryan democrats, and let both of them promulgate a statement to plutocratic democrats that there can be no misunderstanding. Let these democrats and populists bid defiance to the reorganizers and tell them that from henceforth there is a fight on with no let-up until it is decided whether a party can put up candidates for congress and president under one name, when it is divided into two sections holding diametrically opposing principles."

Although hundreds of progressive democrats, supporters of the Kansas City platform, living in states where the people's party organization had gone down, were anxious for such a conference, none of them could officially make such a call, as that would be a confession of defeat at the hands of the reorganizers nearly two years in advance. But Butler could have made the call without prejudicing in the least the cause of the Kansas City platform democrats. Yet he would not. And the winter dragged along and spring came. He had all sorts of excuses made to others, but to The Independent not one word would he vouchsafe. He preferred to take a referendum vote—and had lost his list of the national committeemen!

It is not The Independent's desire to harp upon this failure of Chairman Butler to act. Long ago Chairman Parker expressed his willingness, and the conference might have been held February 22, this year. What effect such a meeting might have had can only be surmised, but it seems probable that the Kansas City platform democrats of Iowa—the ones who are really imbued with the principles—might have been spared the humiliation of their recent convention experience. An ultimatum to the reorganizers given last winter in no uncertain tones would have shown them futility of further action. But it may all be for the best. Perhaps the Indiana democrat is right: "It is useless for

us to think about another national campaign under the leadership of the democratic party."

Finally the calls for some sort of populist action became so numerous that The Independent decided to go directly to the populist national committeemen and learn their views. Accordingly, on May 16 a letter was sent to each of them inquiring as to the status of the people's party and the outlook for the future. A brief abstract of the published replies follows:

Elmer E. Thomas, Omaha, Neb.: (Citing the populist "balancing party" action in the city election, and its success): "A minority party is a more powerful and useful engine when it makes no entangling alliances and when it selects only such nominees as are worthy, irrespective of their politics. By the use of the power thus held, a small minority party is able to secure good municipal government. That is what we have done and this is why we rejoice and why we declare that we are not dead and not going to be dead. . . . The people's party could not die if it wanted to. . . . There is nothing in the situation nationally that indicates that our mission has been fulfilled. On the contrary, next year will be the year of the greatest usefulness and power that the people's party has ever enjoyed." ("The People's Party," p. 2, Independent, May 21.)

Former Governor William A. Poynter, Lincoln, Neb.: "The time is now ripe to reorganize 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. . . . 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." ("Poynter's View," p. 1, Independent, May 29.)

H. W. Lawrence, box 1374, Salt Lake City, Utah, (People's party organization abandoned. Mr. Lawrence turned socialist.)

E. Gerry Brown, (editor Brockton Diamond), Brockton, Mass.: "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. . . . The Independent is right in saying that the people's party is not dead. . . . 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. . . . Mr. Editor

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