

and fellow committeemen: What of the west? Can we once again reclaim the congressional and state legislative seats we once had? . . . Isn't it plain that the path of victory does not lie through combination with those who tolerate our principles only that our votes may help them to secure office? We know where the south will be when Wall street regains control of the democratic party; but is the west ready to sound the note for an advance?" ("The People's Party," pp. 1, 2, Independent, May 28.)

R. C. Crenshaw, R. F. D. 4, Hopkinsville, Ky.: "If the democrats adopt a platform along the lines of '96 and 1900 and nominate men in sympathy with the platform the populists will vote with them. But if the reorganizers get control of the convention and make a platform in the interest of trusts and money combines, and place a reorganizer of the Cleveland type at the head of the ticket, then all populists and democrats with populist tendencies will bolt, or revolt, and act independently. If the populists have an organization sufficient to form a nucleus it is more than probable that the disaffected element would rally around that nucleus and try and build a party of sufficient strength to carry enough states to hold the balance of power and throw the election into the house of representatives, as we tried to do in 1892. . . . A short platform covering a few of the most important issues, clear cut and distinct, from the old isms of the past should be the policy of the populist party. If the break comes next year, as I believe it will, who will be the Joshua to lead us to the land of promise? This question is important. Keep your eye out for him." ("Kentucky Populists," p. 5, Independent, May 28.)

Mark Foster, Washington, D. C.: "Populists, where they are numerous enough to elect their men, can afford to put up independent candidates, but in the very many places where they are only a third party, and a small one at that, it is discouraging to work for candidates whom they know in advance will be defeated; yet by selecting and indorsing the best candidates of the old parties, the populists could assume the prerogative of deciding the election every time. Then the old parties would defer to them, and put up their best element; for in both the old parties are plenty of men who personally are superior to what their parties in general have hitherto been. Such men would be put up more and more; the old parties would do the nominating, and the populists would do the electing, and we would have the offices filled by men holding populist views. What difference then if they are not members of the party?" ("Tactics for Populists," p. 10, Independent, May 28.)

Hugo Preyor, 74 Muirson st., Cleveland, O.: "There is still a populist organization in this state. I am the secretary. We have, however, affiliated with the democratic party since the first Bryan campaign. I do not know of any populists who have gone into the republican party; some, perhaps one-tenth, have joined hands with the socialists. Our future action will depend upon the action of the democratic party. If that party will in national issues favor the Bryan platform we can indorse it; or if in state and local issues it will advocate the platform of Hon. Tom L. Johnson, who favors home rule, single tax, municipal ownership of all public utilities, who opposes trusts, combines and traitors in office, we can support it without sacrificing one iota of our principles. The financial question is in my mind still the most important question and until that is satisfactorily settled, not only along the silver, but the absolute fiat line, the country will witness in the future what it has in the past—panic, bankruptcy and ruin. The present tariff holds the structure only temporarily." ("Ohio Populists," p. 1, Independent, June 4.)

Edward S. Grece, 34 Hodges bldg., Detroit, Mich.: "I am frank to admit that I have not faith sufficiently convincing to me, to assure me that Mr. Bryan and his supporters can, or will be able to resist the power of money and promises of advantage, office, emolument, 'success' which the reorganizers are able to make and furnish. In my judgment the people's party should be reorganized in every state where possible. The next democratic national convention will doubtless split in two, the reorganizers obtaining control. Two democratic parties will not do; followers of the Kansas City platform must have a place to go. The people's party standing on the grand principles of the Omaha platform and other national platforms since that of 1892 will afford them

just the ground on which to stand. Those principles meet the demands of the masses today." ("Michigan Populists," p. 1, Independent, June 4.)

Alex Kent, Washington, D. C.: "Personally, I think the people's party—as a party—is dead. But all that was true in its principles remains true still, and will to the end. I do not, however, look for any embodiment of these principles in any party platform that can possibly be born out of present conditions. Those in the democratic party who are in active sympathy with populist principles are too few, in my opinion, to warrant any hope of victory through fusion in 1904." ("District of Columbia," p. 1, Independent, June 4.)

Laurie J. Quinby, Omaha, Neb.: "I believe that the people's party today occupies the only rational ground between the outrages imposed by the republican and gold democratic parties and the insanity of the socialist party." ("Populist Duty," p. 3, Independent, June 4.)

F. S. Merrill, S. 7 Post st., Spokane, Wash.: "I am not much in politics now. While I am as firm a believer as ever in the principles advocated by the populist party, I am of the opinion that several generations more fools must be raised before the people at large will vote their own welfare and interests. The populists are not strong in this state; I think, to some extent for the reason that about six years ago we unfortunately elected a few bad people to the legislature who through their action brought the party into disrepute. I take some reform literature because I feel as though I ought to support the movement; but I do not read much along that line as it makes me mad and interferes with my peace of mind to see what chumps people are in whooping it up for the old parties—and nothing." ("Washington Populists," p. 1, Independent, June 11.)

Eltweed Pomeroy, East Orange, N. J.: "There is not any of the populist party left in New Jersey; it was never very large, but I do not believe that a meeting called at present would bring together ten men, and there is no use trying to revive it at present; it would be impossible. The socialist party has absorbed the radicals and the democratic party the conservatives of the old populist party, and a few have gone republican. Of course I would be very glad to see it revived, but one man cannot make a public movement. I think the same is true of all the states east of the Alleghenies and probably also of many of them west." ("New Jersey Populists," p. 4, Independent, June 11.)

S. A. Lowrance, Mooresville, N. C.: "I fear we have no people's party organization in this state. . . . Ridicule has been one of the greatest means used to put our people back to the democratic party. As for myself, I can never go back to it, especially in this state. The democrats here are rotten to the core, with no hope of reform that I can see, and not much hope in the near future to get a fair election—nothing but a revolution can do that. I should have said also that another great cause of disruption in our party was the division of the leaders between leading issues and the national ticket." ("North Carolina Populists," p. 2, Independent, June 18.)

S. S. Smith, Ogden Utah: (No state organization.) "We hardly know what to do but wait. There are just as many populists as ever, in fact about four times as many as there were prior to the education we gave the democrats during the campaigns of 1892 and 1896. Should the democrats declare for the initiative and referendum and for the government ownership of railroads, you could not organize the populists in an independent party in Utah, unless the democrats were to nominate his royal highness, Cleveland, to carry out their demands." ("Utah Populists," p. 2, Independent, June 18.)

T. S. Hogan, Butte, Mont.: "I admire your persistency in adhering to the party after its death, but that it is dead—too dead to require burial—cannot be denied by any sane man. As for myself, while I vote with the socialists, I am taking no public part in political affairs. Practically all of the active populists of Montana have joined the socialists or withdrawn from the field and the name of the people's party is never mentioned in any serious discussion of political conditions. It is true that in the past three years some vigorous trafficking has been done with the organization, but even as a commercial commodity it has depreciated to nil. Lamentable

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|-----------------------|------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 bushel basket.      | 1 potato masher. | 4 lamp wicks.   | 1 yd. French lace. |
| 25 white envelopes.   | 1 wire strainer. | 6 collar buttons.   | 12 agate buttons.  |
| 1 ink tablet.         | 1 nutmeg grater. | 2 shoe strings.   | 2 hat pins.        |
| 1 pen and penholder.  | 1 stove lifter.  | 1 paper pins.   | 12 hooks and eyes. |
| 1 bottle ink.         | 6 tea spoons.    | 1 box hair pins.  | 1 boxwood whistle. |
| 1 box crayons.        | 6 table spoons.  | 1 aluminum thimble.                                       | 1 brownie mask.    |
| 1 lead pencil.        | 1 sponge.        | 1 cone ironing wax.                                       | 1 dressed doll.    |
| 1 leather pocketbook. | 1 kite.          | 1 white handkerchief.                                     | 1 heart patty pan. |
| 1 7-inch comb.        | 1 pair scissors. | 1 pair black hose.  | 1 star patty pan.  |
| 1 pocket mirror.      | 1 pocket knife.  | 1 needle cabinet.   | 1 wire coat frame. |
| 1 spool emb. cotton.  | 1 shaving brush. | 1 combination tool, can opener, glass cutter, plier, etc. |                    |
| 1 box tacks.          | 1 watch chain.   | 1 good hatchet.   |                    |
| 1 screw driver.       | 1 scarf pin.     |   |                    |
| 1 egg beater.         | 6 shelf papers.  |   |                    |

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as they may be, these are the facts, and nothing is to be gained by shutting our eyes to them." ("Montana Populists," p. 3, Independent, June 18.)

D. L. Van Meter, Welcome, Wyo.: "In my opinion the most important thing to do is to organize, and it should be done soon. Our platform should be brief, clean-cut and to the point. We need say nothing about trusts. There's only one way to regulate trusts, and that's to abolish them by government ownership of all modes of transportation. The original platform of the populist party is good enough and broad enough for all of us to stand on. I would like to see all the populists get together some time this year and thoroughly reorganize the party, so we can have at least a few workers in each precinct in the United States organized and ready for work next year. There has been no populist party in this state since 1898, though there are many voters who believe in our principles. The time is ripe for reorganization. Let every man who believes in reform put his shoulder to the wheel and give the car of progress a lift." ("Wyoming Populists," p. 3, Independent, June 18.)

Jerry Simpson, Roswell, N. M.: "As to the wisdom of keeping up the fight through the populist party, or not, in my opinion a good deal depends on what the democrats do next year. If the Bryan wing of the party should control the action of the next national democratic convention, I would be in favor of joining forces with them. However, I trust the best counsel will prevail." ("Jerry Simpson," p. 7, Independent, June 18.)

Geo. A. Groot, Cleveland, O.: "I believe that the democratic party at its next national convention will adopt the republican party's position upon the money question and will attempt to create a fake issue over which the campaign of 1904 will be fought. If it should then it is safe to conclude that there is no hope of relief through the democratic party and the people's party must take the initiative in the great work of revolutionizing the American government at the polls." ("Ohio Populists," p. 1, Independent, July 2.)

**THE SOUTHERN MERCURY.**

Elsewhere in this issue we publish the informal call of Hon. J. A. Edgerton, secretary of the fusion populist national committee, for a consultation meeting at Denver, July 27. We have received a personal invitation to attend and shall do so if circumstances permit. We are glad to see this step taken, as it indicates a desire for action along independent lines by those who hitherto have been wont to rely on old party promises and alliances. Time has shown the mistake of fusion with either of the old parties, and now those of both wings of the populist party can honorably bury their past differences and line up together for a united struggle for 1904.

We hope every Texas populist who can will attend this Denver meeting, as upon it much will depend.

Though the meeting is to be informal and unofficial and not restricted to populists, it is hoped that the members of the national committee of both the fusionists and the middle-of-the-roads will avail themselves of the opportunity to hold a joint conference and agree upon a line of action which will bury all past differences and solidify the army of dissatisfied voters in this country.

The Mercury will be pleased to hear from any of our Texas brethren who may contemplate attending the meeting and if twenty or more can be found who will attend, we will make special arrangements for them. This action we feel will receive the hearty indorsement of every man who loves his people better than his party, who is disposed to grant honesty of opinion to those who differ with him, who believes in and will labor to bring about unity, harmony and solidity among

the oppressed all over the land—Milton Park, in Southern Mercury June 25.

**THE MISSOURI WORLD.**

J. A. Edgerton, secretary of the people's party (Sioux Falls organization), has issued a call for a national conference of reformers to meet at Denver, Colo., July 27. Mr. Edgerton does not issue the call as secretary, but merely as an individual. The meeting is not to be an official one, but simply an informal conference. We presume Mr. Edgerton issued the call upon consultation with others, but whom he consulted we do not know. The first we knew of the call was when mention of it was made in the press dispatches. Mr. Edgerton invites fusionists, mid-roads, advanced democrats, lovers of liberty, to attend the conference.

We do not anticipate a very large attendance for the reason that it is not official, and for the further reason that the location is rather to one side.

While the invitation to mid-roads and reformers generally is no doubt in the utmost good faith, it is probable the meeting is intended more for a consultation of western populists than anything else.

Much good may come from the conference. There will be no doubt an attendance of mid-roads and the movement of the two wings of the party toward consolidation may be hastened along. But Mr. Edgerton's call does not take the place of an official meeting of the two national committees. What is needed to be done right now is an official reuniting of the party. The fusion and mid-road committees should be called to meet at the same time and place, and these committees should take such action as will speedily give us one and only one national organization. As one of our correspondents said a few weeks ago, "We are burning daylight." The 1904 campaign is near at hand, the work that should be going on is delayed by the continued existence of two separate and conflicting organizations of the people's party.

We hope for good from the conference to be held at Denver, but in our opinion the calling of that conference makes it all more necessary for speedy official party action.—Dixon & Lankford, in Missouri World, June 24.

**EDGERTON'S CERTIFICATE.**

I hereby certify that at a regularly called meeting of the people's party national committee held at Kansas City, Mo., July 3 to 6, 1900, the following motions were duly made and adopted:

1. "Moved, That in the event of a vacancy on the national ticket the vice chairman be authorized to call the committee together."

2. "Moved, That the chairman or vice chairman be authorized to call the committee together."

3. "Moved, That the committee now adjourn subject to the call of the chairman or vice chairman."

I further certify that the adoption of the second motion was for the purpose of covering a defect in the first motion, it having been pointed out in discussion that the first motion only empowered the vice chairman to act in case of a vacancy on the national ticket. The second motion was meant to make this power general. This was confirmed by the third motion.

I further certify that the said vice chairman, Hon. J. H. Edmisten of Nebraska, at the direction of the national executive committee, exercised this power by calling the full national committee to meet in the city of Chicago on August 27, 1900; that the committee so met and that the legality of such meeting was recognized by Chairman Butler himself, he being present and participating in the meeting.

J. A. EDGERTON,  
Secretary People's Party Nat'l Com.  
Denver, Colo.

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