

THE HONOR ROLL

Agents for the Independent Pushing the Educational Work in Every State in the Union

During the past week The Independent has received hundreds of encouraging letters from loyal friends in all parts of the country. The interest in the revival of the people's party is rapidly spreading. Good results are expected from the Denver conference. More than ever the people realize the necessity for immediate and united action. The first and most important step is to establish a means of communication between all the divisions of the army in order that all may be advised of the work that is being done. The reliable newspaper offers the cheapest and most efficient means for keeping in touch with the work of the army of reform. For this reason all the leaders and thousands of the rank and file are adding their names to The Independent subscription list. No man interested in the cause of good government and the preservation of those inalienable rights set forth in the Declaration of Independence can afford to be without it. Everywhere The Independent is recognized as the leading paper of its class in the United States. For fifteen years it has championed the rights of the people and defended them against the plunderings of plutocracy. It can be depended upon to remain as loyal in the future. Those who have read The Independent longest—those who know it best—are its warmest friends and most enthusiastic supporters.

The special rate for "Madden Educational Subscriptions"—five months for 25 cents—has proven popular. Clubs of new subscribers are coming from everywhere.

The following is the Honor Roll of those from whom we have received lists of subscribers. Many more have written that they are at work and will send in lists within a few days. No friend of reform can afford to be without The Independent from this time. Begin now and boost the Denver conference. Names repeated have sent in more than one list:

Isaac Bruner, Muncy, Pa.
W. J. Ghent, N. Y. City, N. Y.
Sam'l W. Greenbaum, New York.
A. H. Stegall, De Land, Fla.
Jas. S. Paton, Riverside, Cal.
W. H. H. Scott, Reno, Nev.
Edw. Cusack, Patterson, N. J.
Jens S. Jensen, Sturgis, S. D.
J. S. Corbin, Gouverneur, N. Y.
H. Ellington, Minnehaha, Minn.
Rev. A. W. Cross, Riverside, Cal.
J. C. Vincent, Zion, Ore.
W. G. Spencer, Thomaston, Conn.
R. A. Wynn, Marion, Ala.
Edw. S. Wilkins, Moscow, Vt.
T. H. Jones, Patterson, Mo.
M. Hoover, Hooversville, Pa.
E. T. Smith, Castleton, N. Y.
"Suppressed" by request, Phila., Pa.
Jerry Johnston, Miola, Pa.
Geo. McMullen, Hooversville, Pa.
J. T. Johnston, Nebraska, Pa.
Jas. W. Wav, New London, Pa.
L. Fisher, W. Sunbury, Pa.
W. H. Peterson, Custer, S. D.
W. J. Nix, Forsythe, Mont.
Geo. D. Liddle, Providence, R. I.
Thos. Fish, Knox, N. D.
W. D. Vestal, Custer, S. D.
A. J. McBride, Paterson, N. J.
Harry McCarty, Muncy, Pa.
M. Hoover, Hooversville, Pa.
J. E. Kelly, Wallonia, Ky.
H. W. Noren, Allegheny, Pa.
826 Federal street.
Sam'l W. Greenbaum, New York,
N. Y., 503 E. 108th street.
Robert Cumming, Peoria, Ill.
W. G. Spencer, Thomaston, Conn.
J. T. Kennedy, Starcher, S. D.
Jas. A. Griffes, Braidentown, Fla.
J. G. Hanby, Peters Creek, Va.
H. Ellington, Minnehaha, Minn.
J. C. Vincent, Zion, Ore.
T. H. Jones, Patterson, Mo.
E. T. Smith, Castleton, N. Y.
Franklin U. Keene, Canton, Mont.

Meet on Common Ground

Editor Independent: In a recent number of The Independent, ex-Governor Poynter of Nebraska says: "Party prejudice is hard to overcome. Men will meet each other on a middle ground. In independent action the populist party will present that middle ground." This is true, and the early experience of the people's party showed it. Northern and southern populists have quarreled about the manner in which a middle ground should be maintained, and the object of this article is to point out a third way, one which will harmonize the fusion and mid-road ideas, as the writer believes.

It is to refrain carefully from endorsing either party as a whole, and abstain from making agreements with either party; yet at the same time

pick out the best candidates of each party, and support them, thereby getting the good will of the best faction of each political party. Perhaps the two old parties are alike worthless, but candidates are not all alike. There never was a ticket put up by the republican or democratic party in which some of the individual candidates were not far superior to the rest, in point of leaning toward populist principles. By picking out such a ticket, the populists could hold the balance of power, and cause the election of a complete ticket of democrats and republicans, all strongly favorable to advanced ideas. And when the states offices were divided between the two, they could not work together for mere party ends.

Think what an educational leverage that would give the populists. The friends of the selected candidates would cheerfully listen to them, and they would have the ear of both parties. Party prejudice would be completely evaded; we would slip under it and get past it. It would no longer be a barrier. Then again, old party men would bring themselves to vote for this, because it would not mean going over to an opposing party. Unfortunately, the people's party has come to be considered along with the democrats, as an opposing party, by all the western republicans. But this movement would restore the old condition.

If we are strong enough to elect independent populist candidates, why then it will be all right to do that. But the plan proposed above can be used where the populists are weak, and by means of it they will be as though they were strong. It takes only a few voters to hold the balance of power, whereas it takes a great many to be a majority. MARK FOSTER.
Washington, D. C.

WORK FOR POPULIST PARTY

Program Outlined by Committeemen Shibley—Kentucky Populists Hold State Convention

Editor Independent: Your letter of inquiry to the national committeemen of the people's party was duly received. I moved from New York state three years ago, retaining my citizenship and interest in the party. During this time I have been pushing the initiative and referendum, as you know. In doing this I have helped to develop several important distinctions and improvements in political methods, which can be effectually applied to the political situation of this year and next. The distinctions and improvements, briefly stated, are as follows:

1. A people's veto through the optional referendum, and a direct initiative; improve the representative system. The people are free to choose their representatives who, when seated in legislative halls, are no longer tempted to betray the interests of their constituents; they are elected year after year, and are not instructed. The result is enlightened majority rule. This system is not open to the objections that apply to "direct legislation" as usually understood.

2. A people's veto and direct initiative are progressively conservative. The people are more conservative than a radical party; therefore the far-seeing conservatives desire the adoption of the system, as do the progressive elements in society. The system is one upon which all classes can agree, for it promotes the general welfare; on the whole and in the long run we must all go up or down together.

3. The majority rule system has long been developing. It is an established principle that constitutional law in the several states shall not be altered except by a direct vote of the people, excepting where the race question interferes. And many of the more important statutory questions in state and city affairs are being settled by referendum vote. The only question in connection with state and city affairs is, Shall the system be extended to the less important questions? The answer is in the affirmative because a system has been developed whereby the people ratify the measures without a direct vote—the optional referendum has been invented.

4. Previous to 1886 the control of interstate commerce was in the several state governments, and the way the voters protected themselves from gross discriminations in railway rates and excessive charges, was principally through the use of a clumsy initiative and a clumsy referendum—the constitutional convention and referendum vote on an entire constitution. Since 1886 the regulation of interstate commerce has been in congress and the question is, Shall the monopolies in interstate commerce (including the

railway monopolies) be controlled through congress by means of the improved form of the referendum and initiative? Manifestly it is the only system whereby the people can control these monopolies. The system was effective in the state and will be effective when nationally applied. It is practicable for it improves the representative system and scarcely a bill is put to a direct vote. The larger the area—and the more complex the civilization the greater the need for the people's veto and direct initiative.

5. Until recently the question has not been raised, "Shall majority rule prevail?" The political platforms have impliedly admitted that majority rule does prevail—a gross error. By making majority rule an issue it compels all candidates to promise to vote for the system or go down in defeat.

6. The referendum and initiative can be secured through rules of procedure in legislative bodies. Therefore it is possible to establish majority rule in national affairs in next year's campaign. More than a majority of the members of the house can readily be pledged to vote for rules of procedure and the senators can be instructed by their several states.

7. The rule of procedure system in national affairs and the submission of a constitutional amendment by legislatures can be secured by merely questioning candidates. This makes the question an issue, and as the doctrine of majority rule has long been an established principle the candidates are obliged to agree to vote for the system, or suffer defeat. Great results have been secured during the year by questioning candidates.

8. An organization that is free to nominate candidates, as is the people's party, can improve upon the mere questioning of candidates. It can declare that in every district where both the legislative candidates refuse to pledge in writing to vote for majority rule, a candidate will be nominated and that the un-American attitude of his opponents will be placarded throughout the district.

Such a pronouncement by the people's party in national convention will insure the adoption of majority rule by the congress that convenes in 1905.

Preparatory to next year's campaign the populist organization in each of the states that elect legislatures this year should apply the system. Let it declare that majority rule is the first step in reform and that if in any district both the candidates of the leading parties refuse to pledge to allow the people an opportunity to ballot upon a constitutional amendment for majority rule, they will be opposed by a nominee of the people's party. The Kentucky populists have called a convention for July 4 and will probably work along these lines. It was they who blazed the way two years ago and came near succeeding.

Under this program not a nomination need be made, for the entire body of organized labor and organized farmers is demanding the above pledge, therefore every candidate will be obliged, necessarily, to pledge for majority rule or surely suffer defeat. But action by the people's party is needed to insure success, there being apathy among wage-earners and farmers, as is always the case when the country is in a prosperous condition. The people's party workers are not lulled to sleep by a full stomach. They realize the need for vital changes in our political system that liberty may be re-established and hard times kept from our shores.

Third party action of the character above described will be applauded by every progressive citizen, be he democrat, republican, populist, single taxer or socialist.

And what will be the future of the people's party if it secures the installation of majority rule?

It will receive the credit. And its legislative program will at once be put into operation. Doubtless the name of the party applying these principles will not be "people's party," for both the great parties must necessarily come around to the advocacy of the

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District Passenger Agent, Omaha, Neb.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Estate No. 1765 of Jesse E. Shotwell Deceased, in County Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska.
The State of Nebraska, ss: Creditors of said estate will take notice that the time limited for presentation and filing of claims against said estate is January 2, 1904, and for payment of debts is July 1, 1904; that I will sit at the county court room in said county, on October 1st, 1903, at 2 p. m., and on January 2d, 1904, at 2 p. m., to receive, examine, hear, allow, or adjust all claims and objections duly filed. Dated May 21, 1903. FRANK R. WATERS,
County Judge.

By WALTER A. LEESE, Clerk.

people's party principles just as soon as majority rule is installed. Majority rule leads, inevitably, to the abolition of private monopoly and at once, therefore after the revolutionary change that will come with the adoption of majority rule the two great parties of the country will vie with each other in abolishing private monopoly. The questions between them will hinge upon the details of how to enter upon public ownership of monopolies.

The weakness in the socialist program will be stated next week.

GEO. H. SHIBLEY,
Bureau of Economic Research,
Washington, D. C.

The theory of "surplus value"—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.