

other will be more easily attained; that we are capable of adapting ourselves to circumstances when those circumstances lead in our direction, but that we at all times keep our camp-fires burning and our forces well in hand that we may avail ourselves of every advantage that proffers or leans toward success. In other words, that we are a disciplined force to be dealt with.

The apparent necessity of making the money plank paramount is obvious—first, by reason of the fact that there is where it belongs, and, second, since by so doing we rebuke the republicans and show to them that while they may succeed in fooling many with the semblance of "good times" by adopting part of the plan of the populists for creating better times, viz: by increasing the volume of the circulating medium, and that while their mode of doing so may have led many to give the credit to the adoption of the gold standard, yet their methods have never deceived a populist and have but strengthened his argument by making a practical demonstration of what he has preached from street corners and advocated from house-tops, that to increase the volume of the circulating medium of exchange and the prices of commodities would be advanced in a direct ratio.

I would hold to the opinion that it concerns us much more to hold our forces in tact since it is evident that to do so is quite equivalent to holding the balance of power which, if we could accomplish no more, would mean success than just how the platform should be framed; not that that is a minor matter for consideration.

The four planks suggested by Secretary Edgerton in the order in which he places them making money the first issue would be in keeping with my ideas.

A platform should not be cumbersome and unwieldy. It is essential that it be so framed as to appeal to the average intellect with the least argument possible.

Personally, the writer would be in favor of reducing the platform to one plank—the initiative-referendum—were it not open to the objection that to the uninformed might signify that we had receded from our position on other issues.

As far as my information goes a single tax plank would be very popular and would opine that it would operate as a happy stroke of policy at this time.

Replying to your interrogation (a) would stake that the loss of the vote in this territory, or what would be the loss, is an indeterminate quantity for the reason that we have no voice in our own autonomy. I am, however, of the opinion that the populists of this territory, based upon what investigations have been made, stand squarely upon the issues. There have been many democrats weakened and show a disposition to affiliate with the republicans, but as a rule they represent the floating vote that are found in every party for the spoils of office.

The populist organization of this territory is a hold-over, having yet not been reorganized, with A. L. Gibbs of Wagoner, president, and L. J. Snarr of Oolagah acting secretary. (f) There would seem to be no material change in party feeling. Some may be a little more rabid than ever where their information of the conduct of affairs of government have increased.

(g) If Hearst and Mitchell should happen to head the democratic ticket in the coming campaign and the platform is agreeable the enthusiasm of this people would be without bounds for it would be looked upon as a winning ticket, and would volunteer my own opinion that the nominations would be equivalent to an election.

(h) The best informed would seem to favor single tax.

In conclusion, I would parenthetically add that it is to be hoped that the call or invitation sent out by Secretary Edgerton to the reform forces to meet in Denver on July 27 for free discussion will meet with a hearty response. I. D. BURDICK. Ft. Gibson, Ind. Ty.

GEORGIA.

Georgia should by all means be represented at the Denver meeting. It is not beyond probability that our state can suggest the plan, supply the leader which will bring together in one solid body the masses of the voters of this country as has not yet been dreamed of. The whole country is in a state of unrest and uncertainty, and it needs but the proper effort to marshal the grandest political army the world has ever seen. The people have been educated along the lines of true Jeffersonian principles, and all that remains is to get them together under a leadership which at once inspires victory and certainty of results after victory has been attained.—J. A.

Bodenhamer, in Herald, Dalton, Ga.

AN "INDEX" OF WHAT?

Down in the village of Mineral Wells, Tex., is a sheet called the "Weekly Index," but a careful reading of its "boiler-plate" editorials fails to disclose whether it is an "index" of Mark Hanna republicanism or Cleveland democracy—probably either or both, however. Anent the Denver conference, the Index says:

"Beside The Commoner, published by Mr. Bryan, there is a paper published in Lincoln called The Independent, which is claiming to be a populist paper, and is doing its best to revitalize the dead carcass of populism. All this is a "labor of love" for Mr. Bryan and is only the last effort to repair the old frazzled-out populist fusion tail to the Bryan kite. The paper is publishing a symposium on the subject of reorganization by such old "waw bosses" as Jerry Simpson. The expressions are of no value to the end sought and the whole thing will pass without making a ripple."

Alabama Populists

Editor Independent: The populists of Alabama are like sheep without a shepherd, torn and scattered to the four corners of the state, not knowing what or whom to follow. They are disorganized and floating around without a leader, the leaders having well nigh all gone off in the pursuit of Mammon and popularity. They have sold their birthright for a mess of pottage—poor fools.

There is no question that the populist principles and sentiment are largely in the ascendancy, if a fair expression of the vote of the state could be arrived at. But in the present disorganized condition of the party, I do not see how there can be anything done. So organization is the first thing to do. And to do this we must have a leader; yes, indeed, one who knows his business—a man who knows how to handle men, how to speak, how to lecture, and how to organize systematically. With complete and solid organization, Alabama would be safe for the populist party.

Whatever the populists think of doing, the sooner they get about it the better. O! the responsibility that rests upon us in the coming conclave. The money power is not sleeping. The imperialist, the corporations, and the trusts are all busy winding the thread of slavery around our banners of liberty. Populists, rally around your old banners. Socialists, get close together. Single taxers, stand as one man. And all men who love liberty, get together and vote to save your country and its freedom. The coming struggle will in my opinion decide the fate of this government. If the money power wins constitutional liberty will go down, perish, and die, to rise no more forever. IRA CAMPBELL.

Calera, Ala.

A Good Thing

If you want the local or district agency for the farm department of a first-class Mutual Insurance Company, that writes term policies and pays a fair commission and does the right thing by agents that can produce business, write to J. L. Mable, Secretary of the Trans-Mississippi Mutual Fire Association of Omaha, Nebraska.

The annual July clearing sale of Fred Schmidt & Bro. will be continued for another week. Readers of The Independent will do well to take advantage of this opportunity to buy the best merchandise at the lowest prices. Refer to their page ad. in last week's Independent and call or send your order without delay. They will treat you right.

The Regents Accepted

Speaking of Rockefeller's gift to the University of Nebraska, there are some cranks, and possibly a few others, who are not thoroughly well assured of the propriety of a state university accepting gifts.

The old universities are mostly down on their knees at the feet of Mammon begging his favor. If they are not grinding Mammon's ax, it is simply because Mammon happens not to have an ax to grind at the moment.

The state universities, in theory at least, are free. It might be worth while to keep them free, for the Lord only knows what is coming to pass.—Life.

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Rebellious Clerks

One of the special correspondents at Washington says that a lot of clerks, the kind that draw small salaries and do all the work while the fellows with big salaries sit around and plan grafts, are about to be severely disciplined. These clerks had a Fourth of July celebration all by themselves and besides doing several other very bad things, they sang the following song:

Bribers, 'tis up to thee, Forty per cent for me; To thee I turn Should Loud in glad acclaim Swear there's no one to blame, For frauds and rakeoff game, No dough we spurn.

For laws we have respect When they don't crooks affect, For this we stand. We find that if we steal, With big men in the deal, If there's no one to squeal, What fears our band?

Graft was a noble art, In which we all took part, And made our fame. When Beavers, Machen, Groff Coined cash and then made off, To them our hats we'll doff, They capped our game.

Grafts we're to keep most dark, Tipped us by Uncle Mark, And Perry Heath, You need not go to jail, For you can all get bail; With you in honor's scale, Is glory's wreath.

After singing that blasphemous song to the tune of "America," one of them got a megaphone and in tones loud enough to be heard four blocks read through it the following letter:

"To Our Late Henchmen in P. O. D.: We are with you in this celebration. We have always been for almost any old kind of liberty, and are even, now fighting hard for it. But

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